



NEWBORNS THAT BECOME INFECTED
WITH HEPATITIS B VIRUS HAVE A

90% CHANCE

OF DEVELOPING

LIFELONG INFECTION.

HEPATITIS B

Hepatitis B is a serious liver infection caused by the hepatitis B virus. For some, hepatitis B infection becomes chronic, leading to liver failure, liver cancer or cirrhosis — a condition that causes permanent scarring of the liver.

An individual who is unaware that they have hepatitis B can easily pass the disease on to an unvaccinated child when giving birth (spread from infected mother to baby), through contact with their blood from cuts or sores, or through actions as simple as the sharing of a toothbrush.

SYMPTOMS

Not all people with hepatitis B have symptoms. However, if they occur, they usually appear about three months after infection and can range from mild to severe, including:

- Abdominal pain
- Dark urine
- Fever
- Joint pain
- Loss of appetite
- Nausea and vomiting
- Weakness and fatigue
- Yellowing of your skin and the whites of your eyes (jaundice)

PREVENTION

The best way to prevent hepatitis B is by getting the vaccine.

For the most protection against hepatitis B, your children need to receive all three recommended doses of the vaccine. To see if your children are up-to-date on their vaccines, look at the **CDC's immunization schedule** and talk to your healthcare provider.