



Hepatitis B Immunization

Hepatitis B immunization is part of the routine Yukon Immunization Program. This immunization protects against hepatitis B and its complications.

Hepatitis B is a liver infection caused by a virus. You get hepatitis B by direct contact with the blood or body fluids of an infected person. This can happen in many different ways including a break in the skin such as a cut, bleeding gums, needle stick, or tattoo; by sharing needles, toothbrushes, or razors; during unprotected sexual contact; or during birth, from a mother who has the virus.

About half the people who are infected with hepatitis B never feel sick, and they can spread the disease without knowing it.

Hepatitis B can cause:	Possible complications:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fever • Abdominal pain • Jaundice • Vomiting • Diarrhea 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Severe liver disease • Chronic liver infection (10% of infected adults and up to 90% of infected infants) • Permanent liver damage • Liver cancer • Death (1% of cases)



Why is the hepatitis B immunization recommended?

Immunization is the best prevention against hepatitis B and its complications. Hepatitis B immunization is very effective.

You will need two or three doses of hepatitis B immunization depending on your age. You must complete the whole series to be protected from hepatitis B. It is very important that you receive your immunizations on time, to provide the best protection possible.

Immunizations are very safe; it is much safer to get a hepatitis B immunization than to get hepatitis B. Most people do not have any reactions after the hepatitis B immunization.

Possible side effects of the immunization:	What to do:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Swelling, redness and pain at the injection site (1–9%) • Fever (1–9%) • Headache, digestive problems, dizziness, fatigue (1–9%) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apply a cold, damp cloth to the injection site. • You may choose to take acetaminophen or ibuprofen if your temperature is 38.5°C or over. • See your health care providers if your symptoms are severe.



Allergic reactions are very rare and can be treated by the person who gave the immunization. You will be asked to wait for 15 minutes after the immunization to watch for an allergic reaction and to treat one should it happen.

**For more information on immunizations, visit:
www.hss.gov.yk.ca/immunization_info.php**

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