

# Hepatitis B: What You Need to Know

## What is Hepatitis B?

**Hepatitis B** is a **vaccine-preventable** liver infection caused by the **hepatitis B virus (HBV)**.

**Hepatitis B** is a **leading cause of liver cancer**.



## Basic Facts

- **Hepatitis B** affects almost 300 million people worldwide, including over 6 million children under age 5
- About **2 in 3 people** with **hepatitis B** do not know they are infected
- **Hepatitis B** is not spread through food or water
- If you have **hepatitis B**, you are also at risk for **hepatitis D**. If you test positive for **hepatitis B**, you should also be tested for **hepatitis D**.

Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders (AANHPI), represent less than 5% of the total US population, but they account for 50% of the nearly one million Americans living with chronic hepatitis B.

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## How it Spreads

**Hepatitis B** is a **vaccine-preventable** virus that is transmitted when blood, semen, or other body fluids from an **HBV-infected** person enters the body of someone who is not infected. This can happen through sexual contact; sharing needles, syringes, or other drug-injection equipment; or during birth when **HBV** can be transmitted from mother to child.

## Symptoms

Not all people newly infected with **hepatitis B (HBV)** have symptoms, but for those who do, symptoms can include:

- Fatigue
- Poor appetite
- Stomach pain
- Nausea
- Jaundice

## Diagnosis & Treatment

Your healthcare provider will examine you, looking for signs of liver damage.

**Blood tests and liver ultrasound will be taken and possibly a liver biopsy.**

**Avoid alcohol/tobacco, and eat healthy foods.**

There are approved drugs that control the **hepatitis B (HBV)** virus, which helps reduce the risk of your **HBV** getting worse.

## Prevention

The best way to prevent **hepatitis B** is to get vaccinated.

