



Welcome to the webinar!

Hepatitis B: Dispelling Myths and Misconceptions  
*Focus on Transmission & Prevention*

February 21, 2019



# About Us



[Hep B United](#) is a national coalition that was established by the Hepatitis B Foundation and the Association of Asian Pacific Community Health Organizations to address the public health challenge of hepatitis B.

The coalition is dedicated to reducing the health disparities associated with hepatitis B by increasing awareness, screening, vaccination, and linkage to care for high-risk communities across the United States.



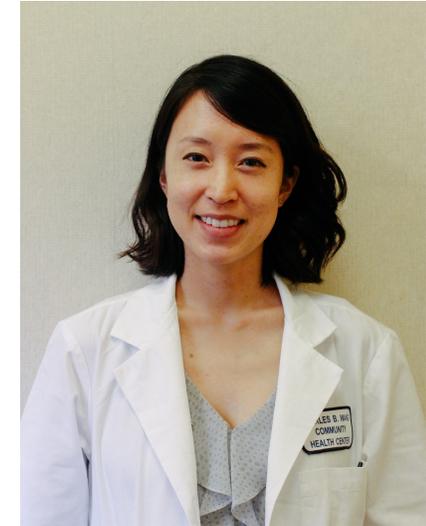
# Panelists



**Maureen Kamischke**  
Social Media and Outreach Manager  
Hepatitis B Foundation

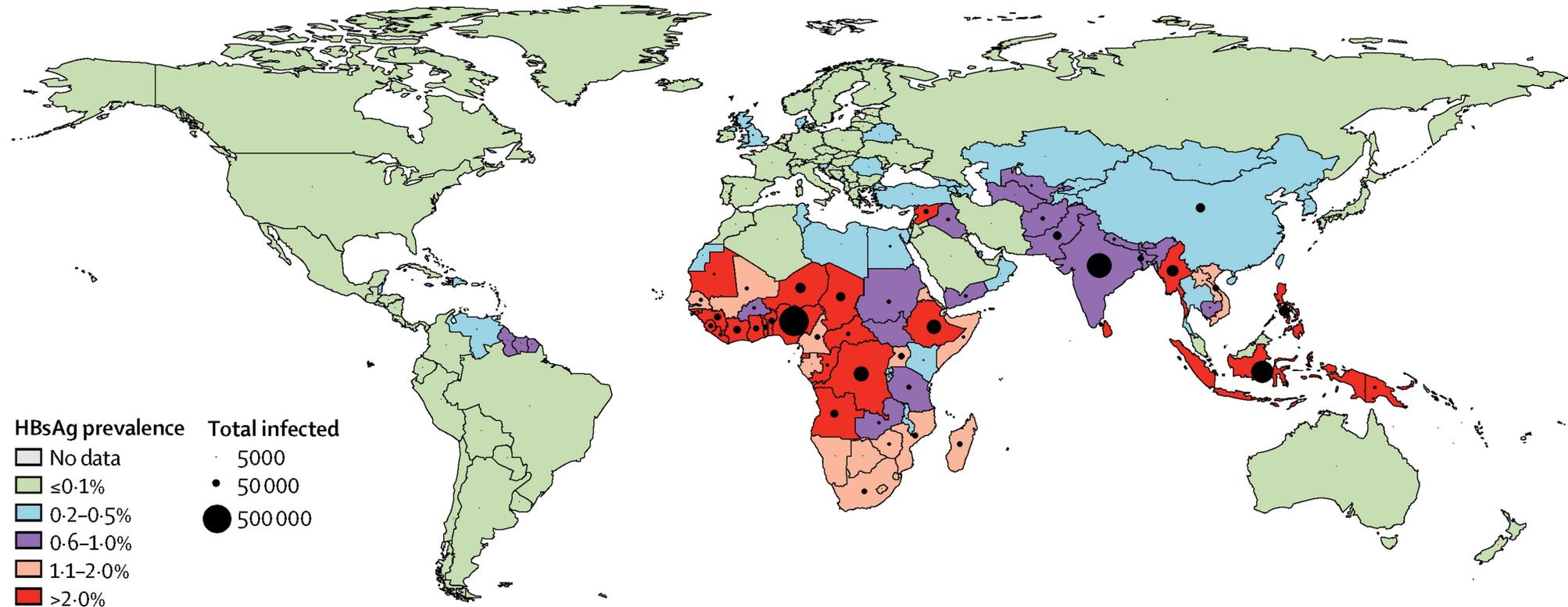


**Ponni Perumalswami, MD**  
Associate Professor of Medicine  
Hepatologist  
Mount Sinai School of Medicine



**Amy Shen Tang, MD**  
Hepatitis B Program Director and  
Primary Care Internist  
Charles B. Wang  
Community Health Center

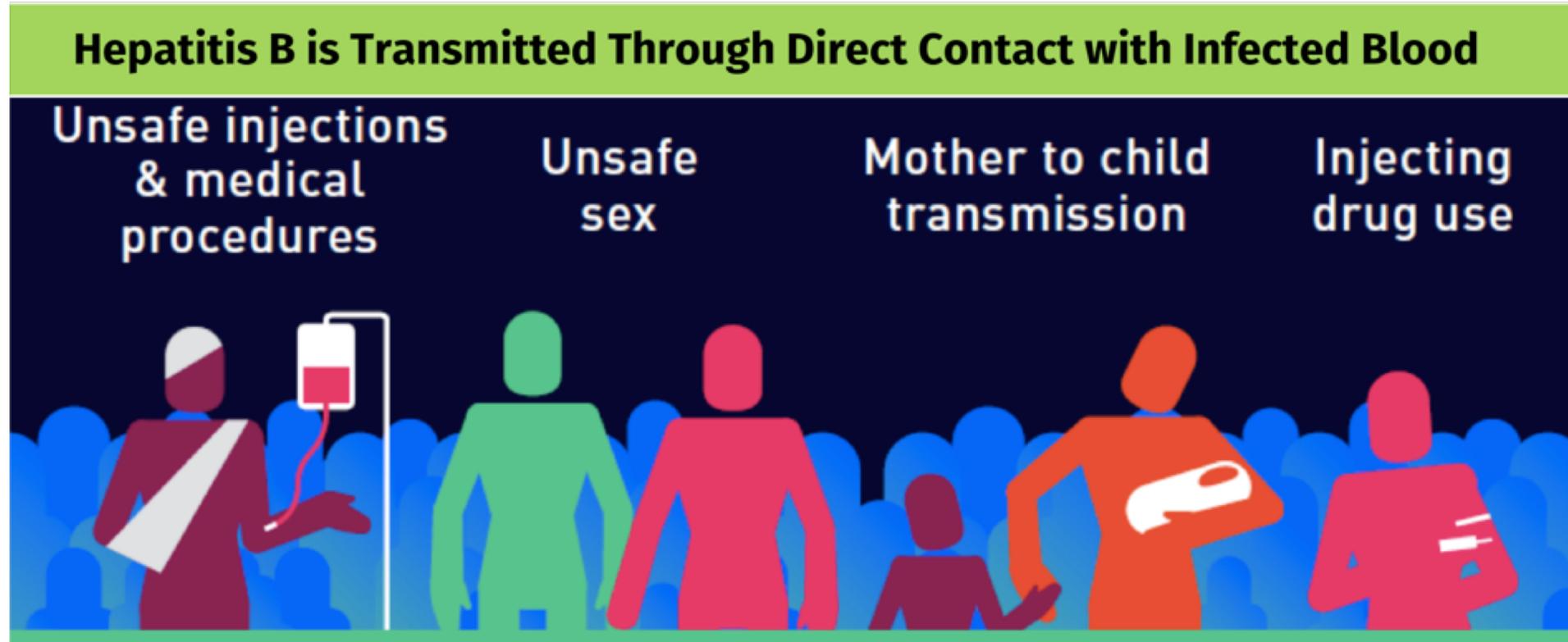
# Who is at risk for hepatitis B?



*The Lancet Gastroenterology & Hepatology* 2018 3, 383-403 DOI: (10.1016/S2468-1253(18)30056-6)

# Hepatitis B Virus

The **most common serious liver infection in the world** – chronically affecting 292 million worldwide, and over 2.2 million Americans.



**1 million new infections annually and 50,000– 70,000 in the U.S.**

# Question 1: Is there a connection between hepatitis B and food?

- Is hepatitis B spread by sharing food, bowls, utensils or chopsticks?
- Can you get hepatitis B by sharing a meal with someone with HBV or eating food prepared by someone with hepatitis B?
- Is there concern with food handlers, butchers or others involved with food prep that have hepatitis B?



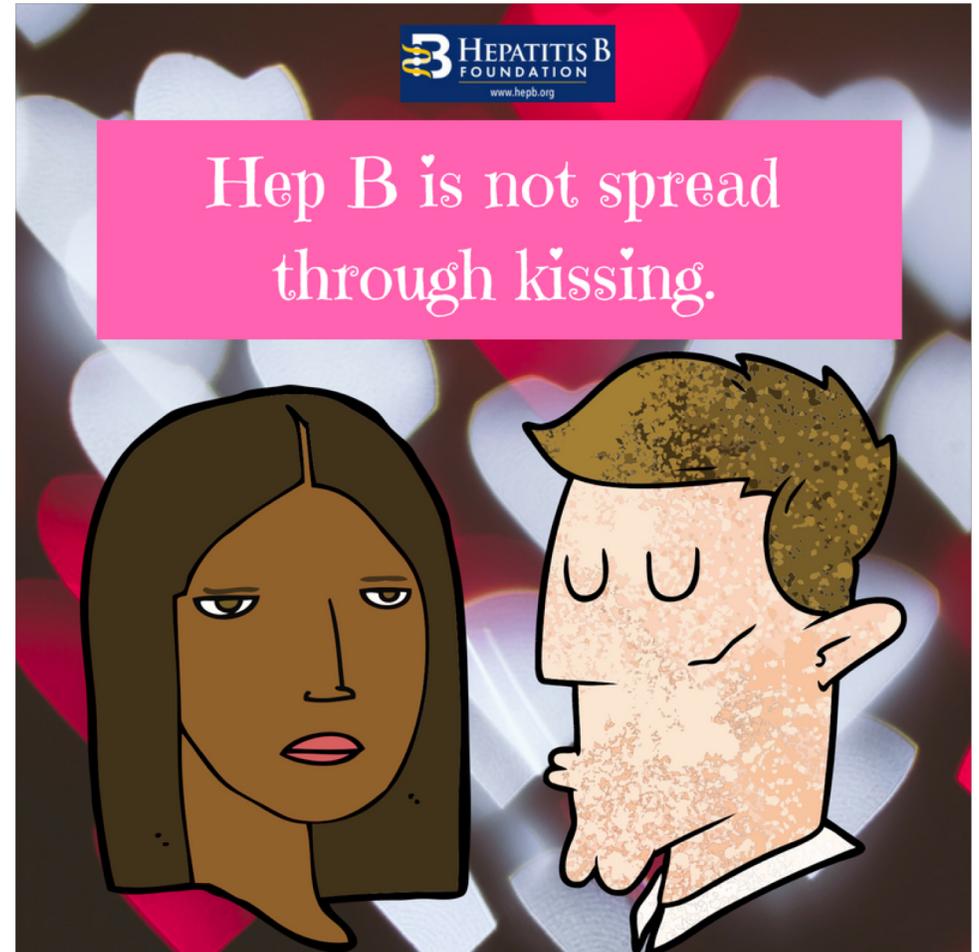
## Question 2: Is hepatitis B genetic? How did I get this?

- Is hepatitis B carried on the sperm of a man or the egg of a woman?
- Hepatitis B seems to “run in my family.” Does my family have “weak” genes?
- How can I be the only one in my family with hepatitis B?



# Question 3: Is hepatitis B transmitted through all bodily fluids? How is it transmitted?

- ❑ Can I safely play sports or will I spread hepatitis B through contact with my sweat?
- ❑ Can I attend university or work with others without spreading hepatitis B to others?
- ❑ What sexual activities are safe with someone that has hepatitis B?
- ❑ Does having hepatitis B mean that I am somehow "dirty" or have done something wrong?
- ❑ Are there precautions I can take to prevent transmission to others?



## Question 4: I'm in love! Can I get married/be in a relationship?

- I have never had sex before. How could I have gotten this, and how will I explain this to my future partner?
- Can I marry someone without infecting them with the hepatitis B virus?
- I am married and recently learned I have hepatitis B? My spouse was tested, but is not positive. How can this be??
- Why should my partner get tested or vaccinated? Isn't it too late?



**HEPATITIS B FOUNDATION**

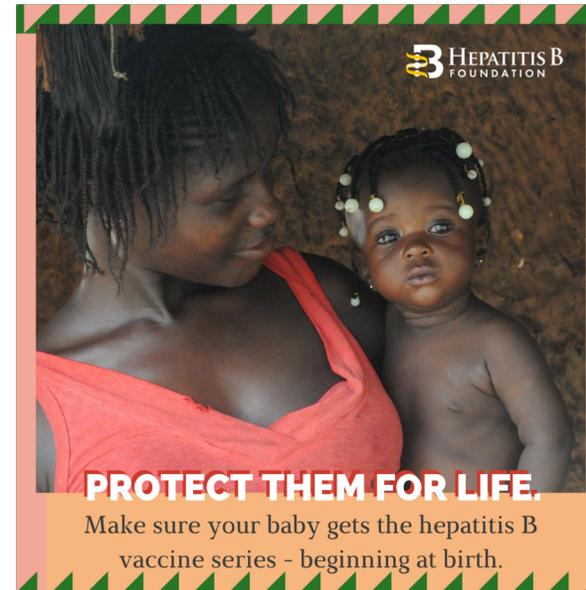
**DON'T BE AFRAID**

PEOPLE WITH HEPATITIS B  
CAN GET MARRIED  
AND HAVE CHILDREN

**VACCINATION PROTECTS YOUR PARTNER & CHILDREN**

# Question 5: Can I have children without giving them hepatitis B?

- ❑ I am pregnant and learned I have hepatitis B. How can I protect my baby?
- ❑ Can my baby wait for the first shot of the pentavalent or other combination vaccine?
- ❑ Is the hepatitis B virus in breast milk? Can I safely breastfeed my baby?
- ❑ I have HBV and will soon be a father. Do I need to wait until my baby is vaccinated to hold it?



# Question 6: How is the hepatitis B vaccine helpful?

- I am living with chronic hepatitis B. Will the HBV vaccine help me or even cure me?
- My partner has hepatitis B. Do you recommend an accelerated vaccine schedule, or one other than that given at 0, 1 and 6 months? Will it protect me if I shorten the schedule? Do I need a 4<sup>th</sup> dose?
- I never returned for a dose of the HBV vaccine. Do I need to restart the series?
- I am fully vaccinated. Do I need a booster shot? My blood test shows I am no longer protected!

**HEPATITIS B  
VACCINE SCHEDULE**

**Now! 1 Month Later**

**6 Months Later**

**3 SHOTS GIVEN OVER 6 MONTHS**

A LIFETIME OF PROTECTION!

# More questions about testing and the vaccine

- ❑ I am from a country where hepatitis B is very common. Should I get tested first or just get the vaccine series?
- ❑ Is it possible for my hepatitis B positive partner to infect me even if I have completed the vaccine series? I am still afraid.
- ❑ Why should I bother to get tested? There is no cure and treatments are lifelong and expensive.

## Understanding your hep B tests is important!

Interpretation & Recommendation	HBsAg	HBsAb (anti-Hbs)	HBcAb (anti-Hbc)
<b>Not Immune</b> Has not been infected, but is still at risk for possible future infection. Needs protection. <b>Get the Vaccine</b>	—	—	—
<b>Immune Controlled-Protected*</b> Surface antibodies present due to natural infection. You have recovered from a prior hepatitis B infection. You cannot infect others. <b>The Vaccine is Not Needed</b>	—	+	+
<b>Immune</b> You may have already been vaccinated. You cannot infect others. <b>The Vaccine is Not Needed</b>	—	+	—
<b>Hepatitis B Infection</b> Positive surface antigen, which means hepatitis B virus is present. You can spread the virus to others. <b>Find a doctor who is knowledgeable about hepatitis B for further evaluation.</b>	+	—	+
<b>**Unclear</b> Several different interpretations are possible. You may need to have these tests repeated. See * below. <b>The vaccine may or may not be needed.</b> <b>Find a doctor who is knowledgeable about hepatitis B for further evaluation.</b>	—	—	+

# In Summary: FACTS about Hepatitis B Prevention & Transmission

- All pregnant woman should be tested early to learn if they are positive for hepatitis B. Although CDC and WHO recommend that ALL babies be vaccinated within 24 hours of birth and complete the series, this is especially important for HBV positive women. Babies should receive the first dose of the HBV vaccine (and HBIG, if available) within 12-24 hours of birth.
- Hepatitis B is spread through direct contact with infected blood. This can occur as a result of unsafe injections, medical or dental procedures, through sexual transmission, and from an HBV positive mother to her baby during delivery. Avoid sharing items that may have blood on them like razors and toothbrushes.
- Hepatitis B is NOT spread casually. Working with, holding hands, hugging, kissing, sneezing and breastfeeding do not spread HBV.
- There is no connection between hepatitis B and any part of food preparation or sharing meals. Hepatitis B cannot be spread through sharing meals, bowls or utensils with someone who has the virus.
- The hepatitis B vaccine prevents hepatitis B transmission. The HBV vaccine does not benefit those living with or recovered from a past HBV infection. Get tested first to learn if you have a current infection or have recovered from a past infection. Follow the hepatitis B vaccine schedule and confirm protection with the anti-HBs titer test if desired. If you find you have an HBV infection, see your doctor to learn more.

# Thank you for joining!

Contact us:

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[www.hepbunited.org](http://www.hepbunited.org)

