



COLORADO

Department of Public Health & Environment

Newly Released!

Universal Recommendation for Hepatitis B Vaccination for Adults 19-59 Years

On April 1, 2022, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention published updated recommendations for [universal hepatitis B vaccination in adults aged 19-59 years](#). The updated recommendation removes the risk factor assessment previously in place for adults in this age group. A universal recommendation will simplify the hepatitis B recommendation for both vaccine recipients and clinicians with the hope to increase hepatitis B vaccination coverage and decrease hepatitis B infection.

Hepatitis B vaccines should **now** routinely be recommended for:

- Infants (with the first dose given at birth).
- Persons aged <19 years.
- Adults aged 19-59 years **New Universal Recommendation.**
- Adults aged ≥ 60 years with risk factors for hepatitis B (see below for risk factors).
 - Persons at risk for infection by percutaneous or mucosal exposure to blood, including:
 - Persons with current or recent injection drug use.
 - Household contacts of persons testing positive for HBsAg.
 - Residents and staff members of facilities for persons with developmental disabilities.
 - Health care and public safety personnel with reasonably anticipated risk for exposure to blood or blood-contaminated body fluids.
 - Persons on maintenance dialysis, including in-center or home hemodialysis and peritoneal dialysis, and persons who are predialysis.
 - Persons with diabetes at the discretion of the treating clinician.
 - Persons at risk for infection by sexual exposure, including:
 - Sex partners of persons testing positive for HBsAg.
 - Sexually active persons who are not in a long-term, mutually monogamous relationship (e.g., persons with more than one sex partner during the previous six months).
 - Persons seeking evaluation or treatment for a sexually transmitted infection.
 - Men who have sex with men.
 - Others, including:
 - International travelers to [countries with high or intermediate levels of endemic hepatitis B virus infections](#) (HBsAg prevalence of ≥2%).
 - Persons with hepatitis C virus infection.
 - Persons with chronic liver disease.
 - Persons with HIV infection.
 - Persons who are incarcerated.

- Adults aged ≥ 60 years without known risk factors for hepatitis B **may** receive hepatitis B vaccines.

Despite demonstration of safety, immunogenicity, and efficacy of hepatitis B vaccination over the past four decades, the number of acute hepatitis B cases among adults are on the rise, and hepatitis B vaccination coverage among adults aged 19 years and older is low. Risk-factor based approaches to vaccine administration can lead to missed opportunities due to several reasons; nondisclosure of risk factors from patients and inadequate time to routinely assess patients for risk factors are two common reasons. A universal vaccination recommendation eliminates the need for risk assessment before vaccination for adults aged 19-59 years.

Additional clinical guidance:

- No additional hepatitis B vaccine doses should be administered to persons who have previously completed a hepatitis B vaccination series or who have a history of hepatitis B virus infection (with the exception of specific cases where revaccination might be indicated - [see 2018 ACIP recommendation](#)).
- Providers should only accept records with dates of vaccination as evidence of previous hepatitis B vaccination. Self-reported previous hepatitis B vaccination is not acceptable as proof of vaccination.
- In community settings in which there is a high rate of previous hepatitis B virus infection, pre-vaccination testing performed simultaneously with administration of the first dose of vaccine might reduce overall costs. However, [serological testing](#) should not be a barrier to vaccination.
- Due to lack of safety data, Heplisav-B and PreHevbrio should be avoided during pregnancy. Providers should vaccinate pregnant people needing hepatitis B vaccination with Engerix-B, Recombivax HB, or Twinrix.

Resources:

[Hepatitis B Vaccination of Adults | CDC](#)
[Hepatitis B Questions and Answers for Health Professionals | CDC](#)
[Adult Immunization Schedule by Age Group | CDC](#)
[Universal Hepatitis B Vaccination | Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report \(MMWR\)](#)
[Strategies for Increasing Adult Vaccination Rates | CDC](#)
[ACIP Presentation Slides Nov 2-3, 2021 | Universal Adult Hepatitis B Vaccination | CDC](#)
[Universal Adult Hepatitis B Vaccination: Introduction | CDC](#)
[Viral hepatitis surveillance reports | CDPHE](#)