

Hepatitis B

Hepatitis B is a serious disease caused by the Hepatitis B virus. This infection can be transmitted during vaginal, anal, and oral sex. The infection can also be transmitted by injecting drugs, sharing personal care items (such as a razor or toothbrush), body fluids, and by infected mothers during birth.

Symptoms

- Loss of appetite
- Tiredness and fatigue
- Muscular pain
- Yellow skin and eyes (jaundice)
- Diarrhea and vomiting

If you think you have Hepatitis stop having sex and come to the DC Health and Wellness Center for a **CONFIDENTIAL** Assessment. *Free for DC Residents without insurance.*

How serious is Hepatitis B?

- After the virus gets into your body, it attacks your liver.
- The liver helps your body to digest food and to eliminate poisons. Hepatitis B stops your liver from working properly.
- The virus can cause lifelong infection, scarring of the liver, liver cancer, liver failure, and even death.

How is Hepatitis B treated?

- There is no cure. There is no specific treatment for short term illnesses. Some people remain infectious for life (they become carriers of the virus).

How can I avoid getting Hepatitis B?

- Get vaccinated. Condoms will only partially reduce your exposure to body fluids and your risk of getting the virus. **The DC Health and Wellness Center** provides Hepatitis B vaccinations free of charge.

Who should be vaccinated?

- Anyone who has recently been treated for a sexually transmitted disease.
- Anyone who visits a sexually transmitted disease clinic.
- Injection drug users.
- Sexually active gay and bisexual men.
- Health care workers.
- The vaccine is recommended for all infants at birth.
- Anyone diagnosed HIV positive