



[Viral hepatitis](#) can increase the risk for liver disease, cancer, and death among infected individuals. For Hepatitis A and Hepatitis B viruses, vaccination is our most effective tool in protecting patients. We are urging healthcare providers to take actions to improve routine screening and vaccinations for hepatitis.

Most [viral hepatitis](#) is caused by Hepatitis A virus (HAV), Hepatitis B virus (HBV), and Hepatitis C virus (HCV). Risk factors for viral hepatitis infection differs for each virus, but can be related to certain medical conditions, occupation-related exposure, travel to high-risk areas, [sexual behaviors](#), and sharing drug-injection equipment.

HAV:

HAV can cause a vaccine-preventable liver infection after ingestion of contaminated food or water and is more common in places with poor sanitation. Los Angeles County has recently experienced [increases in HAV transmission](#) among persons experiencing homelessness or using illicit drugs. The CDC recommends individuals follow their recommended vaccine schedule for [HAV vaccination](#).

HBV:

HBV can cause a serious liver infection that is [spread](#) through blood, semen, or certain other body fluids – even in microscopic amounts – from an infected person. [Perinatal transmission](#) can also occur.

The CDC has [updated](#) screening recommendations for HBV, including screening at least once in a lifetime for adults aged ≥ 18 years. Screening reduces the incidence of HBV, leads to better prognosis for those who test positive, and lowers the risk of transmission. Vaccination for HBV is recommended by the [CDC](#) for all infants, children, adolescents, and has been updated to specifically include adults ages 19-59 and adults aged ≥ 60 years with risk factors for HBV infection.

HCV:

HCV causes a liver infection that is spread through the blood. However, if this infection is left untreated approximately 75%-85% HCV infections lead to chronic disease. It is estimated [100,000 Los Angeles County residents](#) are living with HCV. Screening recommendations have also been updated to include all adults aged 18-79 and treatment by primary care physicians can decrease the risk of complications.

Let's work together to promote vaccination, testing, and screening, for hepatitis to improve the health of our community.

Hepatitis Resources for Providers and Patients

Providers:

1. [HHS Viral Hepatitis](#)
2. [CDC Viral Hepatitis](#)
3. [CDC Hepatitis D](#)
4. [CDC Hepatitis E](#)
5. [CDC Hepatitis B Vaccination of Adults](#)
6. [CDC Hepatitis B FAQs](#)
7. [CDC Gay and Bisexual Men's Health Viral Hepatitis](#)
8. [CDC Recommendations: Prevention of Hepatitis A Virus Infection in the United States](#)
9. [CDC Recommendations: Screening and Testing for Hepatitis B Virus Infection](#)
10. [CDC Recommendations: Updated Universal Hepatitis B Vaccination in Adults Aged 19–59 Years](#)
11. [CDC ACIP Recommendations for Hepatitis B Vaccine](#)
12. [CDC ACIP Recommendations for Hepatitis A Vaccine](#)
13. [CDPH Perinatal Hepatitis B](#)
14. [CDC Hepatitis Awareness Month](#)

Patients:

1. [LAC DPH Hepatitis A and B Vaccination Resources](#)
2. [Get Tested: National HIV, STD, and Hepatitis Testing](#)
3. [CDPH Viral Hepatitis Resources](#)

Upcoming Webinars:

1. The American Liver Foundation (ALF) will host a webinar on Thursday, May 16 at 3:00 p.m. ET titled: "Updates on Hepatitis B & C for Patients."
[Register Now](#)
2. The National Foundation for Infectious Diseases (NFID), the American Pharmacists Association (APhA) and the Hepatitis B Foundation will host a webinar on Tuesday, May 21 at 2:00 p.m. ET titled: "Preventing hepatitis B infection in US Adults."
[Register Now](#)