

FactSheet

Para Su Información

Hepatitis B

Hepatitis B is a highly contagious viral disease that infects the liver. It is spread by sexual activity or contact with contaminated blood, blood products or body fluids (such as a splash of infected blood or body fluid into the eyes, mouth, and nose or onto a cut, rash or sore).

Facts about hepatitis B

- It is 100 times easier to catch than HIV.
- The virus can survive up to one month on a surface at room temperature.
- More than 51,000 people are infected with Hepatitis B in the United States.
- Eighty percent of all liver cancers are caused by Hepatitis B.

Symptoms

Symptoms may not show for six weeks to six months, and 30 percent of all people infected show no signs or symptoms at all.

- Loss of appetite
- Stomach pain
- Nausea
- Vomiting
- Occasional skin rashes
- Joint pains
- Jaundice (yellowing of the skin and whites of the eyes)

Information for employers

OSHA mandates employers to offer the Hepatitis B vaccine to ALL employees who have reasonable potential to be at risk of exposure.

Hepatitis B is an occupational hazard for first responders and first aid providers, security personnel, laundry handlers, janitors, housekeepers, waste handlers, healthcare and health clinic workers, mortuary workers, and staff at institutions for developmentally disabled.

Prevention

Vaccination is highly protective against the hepatitis B virus. Do not share or reuse syringes, acupuncture and tattooing needles.

Treatment

Anyone exposed should receive a hepatitis B immune globulin within two weeks.

For more information

Contact the Workplace Vaccination Program at (702) 759-0878 or WPV@snhdmail.org; or visit www.SouthernNevadaHealthDistrict.org.



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