

# Hepatitis B



Public Health  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.  
Taney County Health Department



## What it is:

- Hepatitis B is a vaccine-preventable liver infection caused by the hepatitis B virus (HBV).
- HBV is spread when blood, semen, or another body fluid from an infected person enters the body of someone who is uninfected.
- It can range from a mild illness lasting a few weeks to a serious, long-term, chronic infection.

## Symptoms:

- Dark urine or clay-colored stools
- Feeling tired
- Fever
- Joint pain
- Loss of appetite
- Nausea, stomach pain, throwing up
- Yellow skin or eyes (jaundice)

## Spread:

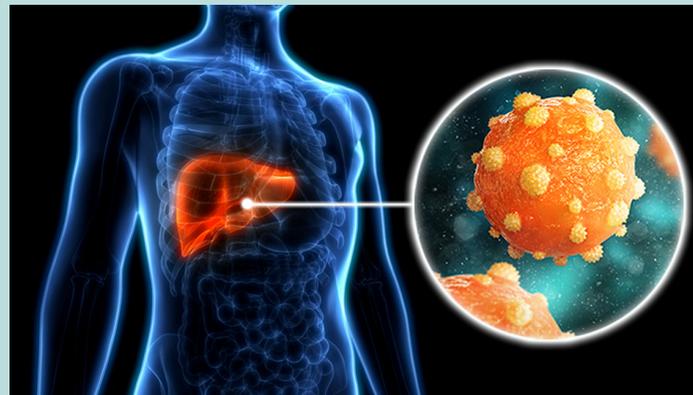
The virus can be spread through:

- **Sex with an infected person.** Among adults, Hepatitis B is often spread through sexual contact.
- **Injection drug use.** Sharing needles, syringes, and any other equipment to inject drugs with someone who has Hepatitis B.
- **Birth.** Hepatitis B can be passed from an infected mother to her baby at birth.

## Prevention:

The best way to prevent hepatitis B is by getting **vaccinated**. You need to get all shots in the series to be fully protected. The vaccine is available for all age groups.

CDC recommends all adults get screened for hepatitis B at least once in their lifetime through a blood test.



[cdc.gov/hepatitis-b](https://cdc.gov/hepatitis-b)