

# Hepatitis B Vaccine

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Vaccination,  
the best protection

Vaccination is the best protection against hepatitis B and its complications.

Hepatitis B is a liver infection caused by a virus (the hepatitis B virus).



Disease	Transmission	Signs and symptoms	Possible complications
<b>Hepatitis B</b>	Hepatitis B is transmitted by contact between a mucous membrane (e.g. the mouth, the genital organs) or a wound and the blood, sperm, or vaginal secretions of an infected person.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Fever</li><li>• Abdominal pain</li><li>• Jaundice</li><li>• Vomiting</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Serious liver damage</li><li>• A chronic liver infection (10% of adults and up to 90% of babies)</li><li>• Cirrhosis</li><li>• Cancer of the liver</li><li>• Death (1% of cases)</li></ul>

# Information on the Hepatitis B Vaccine

Vaccination is the best protection against Hepatitis B and its complications. The vaccine is indicated for anyone who wants to reduce their risk of catching Hepatitis B. Several doses of vaccine are required to ensure the best possible protection. Since September 2020, immunization schedule includes administration of 1 dose of this vaccine in Secondary 3.

**Some symptoms may be caused by the vaccine (e.g. redness at the injection site). Other problems may occur by chance and are not related to the vaccine (e.g. cold, gastro, headache).**

**Hepatitis B vaccine is safe. In most cases, it does not cause any reaction.**

Frequency	Possible reactions to the vaccine	What to do
Often (less than 10% of people)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Pain, redness and swelling at the injection site</li><li>• Headache, digestive problems, dizziness, fatigue</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Apply a cold, damp compress at the injection site.</li><li>• Use a medication for fever or discomfort, if needed.</li><li>• See a health professional if symptoms are severe.</li></ul>

We recommend that you stay at the clinic for at least 15 minutes after vaccination because allergic reactions may occur. If an allergic reaction occurs, the symptoms will appear a few minutes after the vaccination. The person giving the vaccine will be able to treat this reaction immediately.

## FOR ANY QUESTIONS,

contact the person giving the vaccine,  
or Info-Santé 811 or a health professional.

You can also consult  
**Québec.ca/vaccination**