

HEPATITIS B VACCINE INFORMATION

What is Hepatitis B and how does it spread?

Hepatitis B is an infection of the liver caused by the hepatitis B virus. Hepatitis B can cause permanent damage to the liver, liver cancer or death. Symptoms of Hepatitis B infection include fatigue, fever, loss of appetite, and jaundice (yellow skin and eyes).

How can Hepatitis B be prevented?

Through vaccination and by avoiding contact with other people's blood and body fluids.

More about the Hepatitis B vaccine (Engerix® B, and Recombivax HB®)

In Ontario, all Grade 7 students are offered the vaccine at no cost. If your child misses being vaccinated in Grade 7, they can receive Hepatitis B vaccine until the end of Grade 8 at a York Region Public Health community clinic. Visit york.ca/immunization for clinic information.

Who should NOT get this vaccine at school and should consult their health care provider?

- Those who have had a severe reaction to a vaccine
- Those who have an illness or take any medication that weakens the immune system
- Those who have been previously immunized with a complete series of the Hepatitis B vaccine
- Those who have a severe allergy to aluminum, latex (concern for Recombivax HB® only), yeast (concern for Recombivax HB® only), disodium phosphate, sodium chloride, sodium dihydrogen phosphate dihydrogen

What are the side effects of this vaccine?

- Some people may experience headache, fatigue, redness, pain and swelling at the injection site that may last about a day. Apply ice to the site and/or take a non-aspirin pain reliever to help minimize pain and/or swelling
- Students are observed for a minimum of 15 minutes after their vaccination to ensure there are no immediate side effects. Anyone who experiences serious health effects after they leave the clinic should consult their doctor and notify York Region Public Health

PUBLIC HEALTH

1-877-464-9675 ext. 73452
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york.ca/immunizations

