

VACCINE INFORMATION SHEET

Hepatitis B Vaccine

(Engerix® B, and Recombivax HB® Vaccine)

This vaccine protects against hepatitis B infection

- The cost of this vaccine is covered by the province of Ontario for grade 7 and 8 students
- Two doses are needed for long-term protection

Mild side effects may occur, such as:

- Redness, swelling or discomfort at the injection site
- Slight fever, headache, tiredness

Severe side effects are rare

People should avoid this immunization if they:

- Have ever had a severe allergic (anaphylactic) reaction to a previous dose of this vaccine

People should consult their health care provider before vaccination if they:

- Have complicated medical issues or previous severe reactions to vaccines
- Those who have a severe allergy to any of the vaccine components

Hepatitis B

- 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)
- The virus is found in the blood and body fluids of an infected person and can be spread through sexual contact, sharing toothbrushes or needles with an infected person and through other exposures to these fluids
- An infected pregnant woman can pass the virus to her unborn child
- Hepatitis B can be prevented through vaccination and by avoiding contact with other people's blood and body fluids

More about the hepatitis B vaccine

In Ontario, all Grade 7 students are offered the vaccine at no cost. If a student was already vaccinated with a complete series of hepatitis B vaccine (usually 3 doses as a child or infant), they do not need to be vaccinated again. If a student received less than three doses in the past, they can receive the dose(s) offered in grade 7 to complete their series. If you are unsure the student was previously vaccinated with hepatitis B vaccine, the student should receive the dose(s) offered in grade 7. If the student 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.

PUBLIC HEALTH

1-877-464-9675
TTY 1-866-512-6228
york.ca/immunizations

