

## Hepatitis B Vaccine Pre-Exposure Indications

### Recommended and provided free to the following groups: <sup>A</sup>

- Individuals born in 1980 or later. <sup>B</sup>
- Household contacts of internationally adopted children.
- Students of selected health care professions. <sup>C</sup> See [Hepatitis B Vaccine for Students of Health Care Professions](#).
- People who use illicit drugs (via snorting, smoking or injection equipment) and their sexual partners.
- Males who have sexual contact with other males.
- Individuals who are HIV positive. <sup>D</sup>
- Persons with multiple sexual partners or recent history of a sexually transmitted infection.
- Anti-HCV positive individuals who do not have past or current evidence of hepatitis B infection.
- Individuals with chronic liver disease (including cirrhosis, candidates or recipients of liver transplant, and liver damage from hemochromatosis) who do not have past or current evidence of hepatitis B infection.
- Hemophiliacs and others receiving repeated infusions of blood or blood products.
- Inmates of provincial correctional facilities.
- Individuals with chronic kidney disease (predialysis, hemodialysis, and peritoneal dialysis clients). <sup>E</sup>
- Candidates or recipients of a solid organ transplant. <sup>D</sup>
- Receipt of hematopoietic stem cell transplant (HSCT). <sup>D</sup>
- Individuals with congenital immunodeficiency. <sup>D</sup>
- Previously unimmunized teachers and classroom contacts of developmentally challenged known hepatitis B carriers whose behaviour or medical condition increases risk to others.
- Previously unimmunized children and staff in childcare settings in which there is a child infected with hepatitis B.
- Staff and residents in community group homes for the developmentally disabled.

Hepatitis B vaccine is provided by employers for Health Care Workers and others at occupational risk of exposure to blood or body fluids (e.g., dentists, dental hygienists, pharmacists, assistants and technicians, etc.). There is no charge to the employee; vaccine and administration costs are the responsibility of the employer. <sup>F</sup>

### RECOMMENDED BY THE NATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON IMMUNIZATION BUT NOT PROVIDED FREE IN BC:

- Persons visiting countries with high HBV endemicity areas and staying > 6 months and/or having sexual or blood contact with local residents regardless of length of stay.
- Population or communities in which HBV is highly endemic.

<sup>A</sup> Pre-vaccination testing for HBsAg, anti-HBc and anti-HBs is recommended for persons at high risk of having been infected (e.g., intravenous drug use (IDU), sex trade work (STW), individuals with HCV or chronic liver disease, and persons born in countries of high hepatitis B prevalence).

<sup>B</sup> BC implemented a grade 6 hepatitis B immunization program in 1992, as well as a catch up program for grade 12 students (birth cohort of 1980) in 1997. An infant program was implemented in 2001. Therefore, most individuals born in 1980 through present day are immunized. If no records are available and the client is unable to recall receiving hepatitis B vaccine, proceed with hepatitis B vaccination as per indication.

<sup>C</sup> Responsibility for administration lies with the educational institution. However, at the discretion of the regional Health Authority, other vaccine providers may administer the vaccine.

<sup>D</sup> Requires the [Hepatitis B Vaccine Higher Dose Schedule](#).

<sup>E</sup> Clients with chronic kidney disease require a specific hepatitis B vaccine dosage and series. See [Hepatitis B Vaccine Program for Chronic Kidney Disease Clients](#).

<sup>F</sup> This is in accordance with [WorksafeBC](#) regulations.