

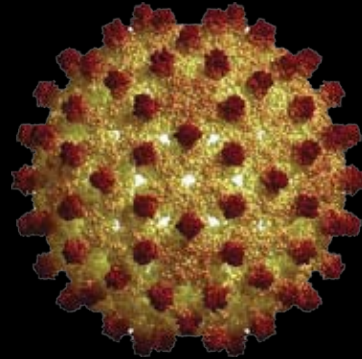


## 2. Hepatitis B

Hepatitis means inflammation of liver. Hepatitis B is life threatening liver infection caused by the virus. As per WHO, Hepatitis is 50 to 100 times more infectious than HIV. Approximately 8 % of world's population carries HBV infection. Every year 6 lac people die due to acute or chronic liver diseases including liver cancer. About 4 crore HBsAg carriers are found in India and roughly 1 lac die every year.

## Transmission

Hepatitis B virus is transmitted by blood or other body fluids of infected person to others. Though it is transmitted the same way as HIV, it is 50 to 100 times more infectious because HBV can survive outside body for 7 days. Unsafe needle use, early childhood infection, unsafe blood transfusion, unsafe sexual contact can cause Chronic Hepatitis B and eventually lead to liver cirrhosis or liver cancer. Symptoms include yellowness of skin and abdominal pain, extreme fatigue etc.



## Treatment & Prevention

There is no specific treatment to Hepatitis B where liver cancer is almost fatal. You can however prevent it by Vaccination. Hepatitis B vaccination can provide effective protection against infection. The first dose should be given to child as soon as possible after child birth. Every one who is at risk of Hepatitis B should take vaccination that comes in 3 doses and gives life long protection.

Prathama Blood Centre has launched "Hepatitis B Vaccination Program" to protect voluntary blood donors from this virus. It is free for Prathama's five times blood donors and for others it is available Rs at 50. To get maximum protection start early and get vaccine shots as per suggested schedule.

- First Dose: Today
- Second Dose: 1 month after 1st dose
- Third Dose: 6 months after 1st dose
- Booster Dose: 5 years after 1st dose