

## Immunization & Infectious Diseases Screening

### Hepatitis B (Hep.B) - Blood-Borne Diseases

Hep B is an infection of the liver caused by a virus. The virus is in the blood, semen, and vaginal fluids of a person who has the disease.

- Almost one-third of people with HB infection have no identified risk factors.

#### Risk Factors

- Infants exposed during child birth to mothers, who are carriers of HB, blood and body fluids,
- People at risk for infection by exposure to blood
- Infected body fluids in a mucous membrane (mouth or eyes) or on broken skin. It may be sexually transmitted through genital or anal contact with an infected person.
- Lack of immunization
- Exposure to a HB carrier
- Unprotected sexual activity
- Sharing injection drug equipment
- Accidental needle stick
- People on dialysis are considered at high risk.

#### What is the treatment?

There is no specific treatment for Hepatitis B. People with the disease need to rest and maintain a proper diet. Some people need to be hospitalized, and some will need to take a medication prescribed by their doctor. Alcohol should also be avoided.

#### How can Hepatitis B be prevented?

- Get a Hepatitis B vaccination
- HB vaccine is 95% to 100% effective pre-exposure.
- Reactions to HB vaccine are generally mild and transient and include: irritability, headache, fatigue, as well as pain and redness at the injection site
- Practice safe sex.
- Do not share needles, razors, toothbrushes, sexual toys, etc.
- Clean up spills of body fluids or blood of an infected person with a 1:10 solution of household bleach & water
- Use universal precautions when exposed to blood or body fluids

For more information, talk to your healthcare provider or your local Public Health office.

Information retrieved from: <https://novascotia.ca/dhw/CDPC/hepatitis-B.asp>  
<https://www.canada.ca/content/dam/phac-aspc/migration/phac-aspc/id-mi/pdf/hepB-eng.pdf>

<https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/publications/healthy-living/canadian-immunization-guide-part-4-active-vaccines/page-7-hepatitis-b-vaccine>



## Hepatitis B Immunity Waiver

### This waiver applies to the following students:

- Students who have not completed the full Hep B vaccination series plus serology or
- Students who are considered Hepatitis B non-responders (after two complete series of Hepatitis B vaccinations plus serology).

I, \_\_\_\_\_ (student name), have reviewed the provided information regarding Hepatitis B. I understand the risk of not demonstrating Hepatitis B immunity should I be exposed to the disease while on a learning placement and /or while participating in a lab component of an NSCC program. I am aware that I should consult with a Healthcare practitioner should I have further questions/concerns relating to Hepatitis B.

I understand that my placement options may be changed to protect the safety of myself or others and I may be excluded from areas or subject to restrictions.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student/Learner name (print)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student/Learner signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Placing Agency Contact name (i.e. placement coordinator, or delegate)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Placing Agency witness

This waiver is to be kept on file at the Students Placing Agency.

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