

# Universal Adult Hepatitis B Vaccination Recommendation Updates

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# Hepatitis B Infection Refresher

- Hepatitis B virus causes acute and chronic infections
- 95% of adults will naturally clear infection → 5% develop chronic disease
- Most adults with acute hepatitis B will be symptomatic (jaundice, nausea, grey stool, malaise, etc.) → most chronic infections are asymptomatic
- Treatment available to reduce liver disease, but not a cure
- Primary cause of hepatocellular carcinoma worldwide
- Transmission:
  - Perinatal
  - Sexual (semen and vaginal fluids)
  - Blood to blood exposure (e.g. needlestick, drug use, tattoos, sharing household items)

# Hepatitis B Vaccine Recommendation History

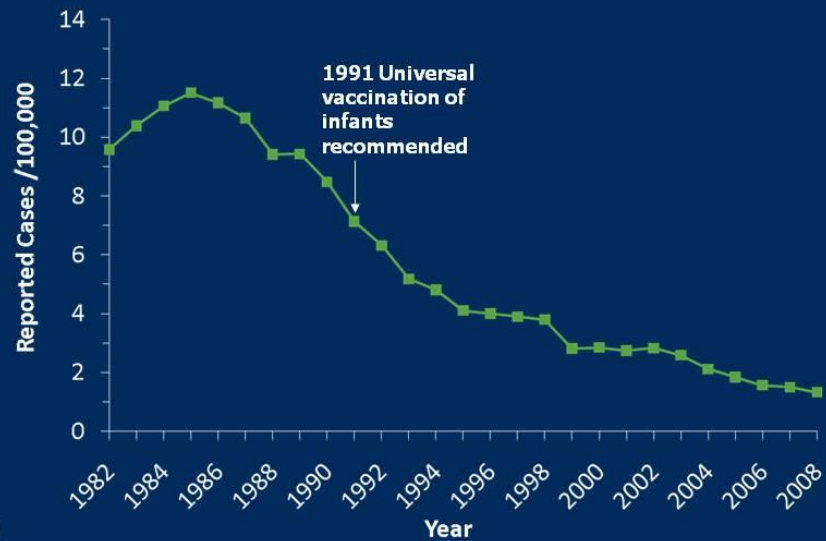
**TABLE. Chronology of Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices recommendations for hepatitis B immunization — United States, 1982–2002**

June 25, 1982	First official recommendations are published for the use of hepatitis B vaccine. Vaccination is recommended for groups known to be at high risk* for hepatitis B virus (HBV) infection.
June 1, 1984	Recommendation that all infants born to hepatitis B surface antigen (HBsAg)-positive mothers receive post-exposure immunoprophylaxis with both hepatitis B vaccine and hepatitis B immune globulin (HBIG) and that pregnant women in high-risk groups be tested for HBsAg during the prenatal period.
June 7, 1985	Recommendation that heterosexual persons with multiple sexual partners and international travelers who plan to spend >6 months in areas where HBV infection is endemic be vaccinated.
June 10, 1988	Recommendation that all pregnant women be tested routinely for HBsAg during the prenatal period.
February 9, 1990	Recommendation that public safety workers who have contact with blood or blood-contaminated body fluids and family members of adoptees from countries in which HBV infection is endemic be vaccinated.
November 22, 1991	Recommendation that all U.S. infants receive hepatitis B vaccination.
August 4, 1995	Recommendation that all children aged 11–12 years who have not been vaccinated previously receive pre-exposure vaccination.
January 22, 1999	Recommendation that all children aged 0–18 years who have not been vaccinated previously be vaccinated.
January 18, 2002	Preference established for administering the first dose of hepatitis B vaccine series at birth.

\* Health-care providers, clients, and staff of institutions for the developmentally disabled, hemodialysis patients, men who have sex with men, injection-drug users, recipients of clotting factors for bleeding disorders, household and sexual contacts of persons with chronic HBV infection, populations with high rates of HBV infection (e.g., Alaska Natives, Pacific Islanders, and immigrants and refugees from countries in which HBV is endemic), and inmates of long-term correctional facilities.

# Impact on Hepatitis B Transmission in the US

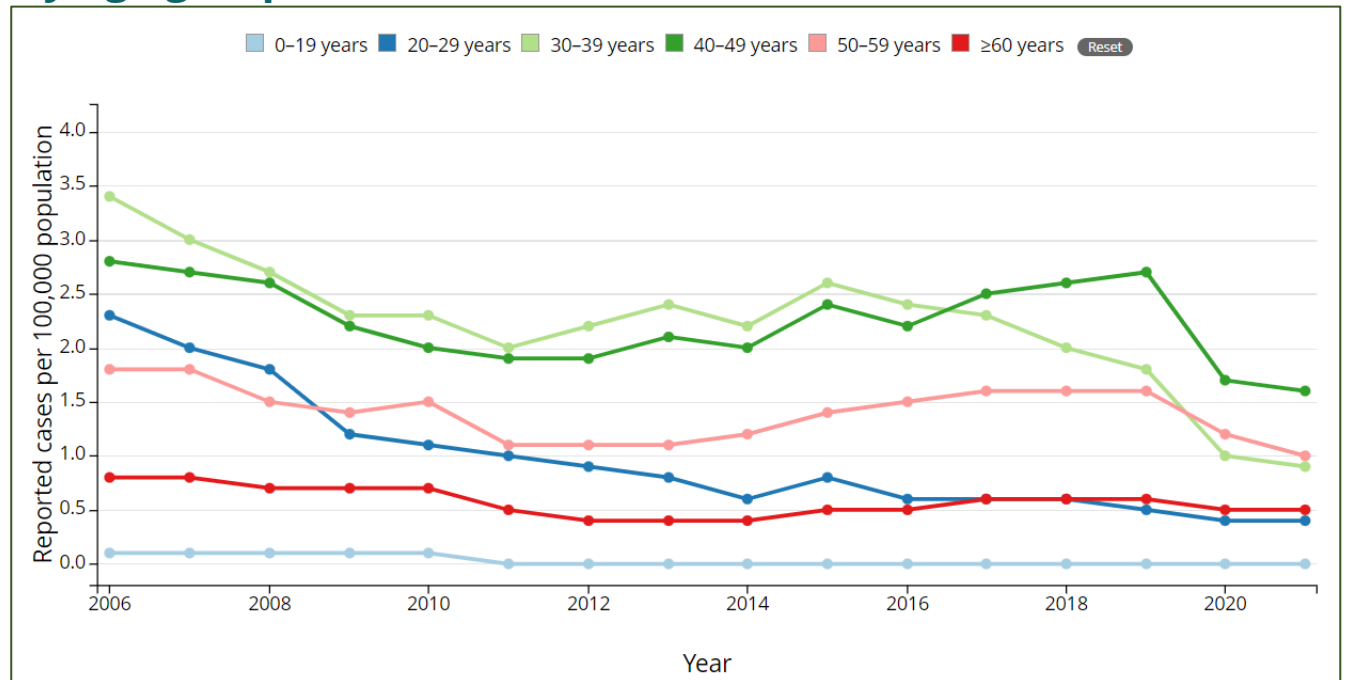
## Incidence of Acute, Symptomatic Hepatitis B — United States, 1982–2008



Source: National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System (NNDSS)



## Rates of reported cases of acute Hepatitis B virus infection, by age group — United States, 2006–2021



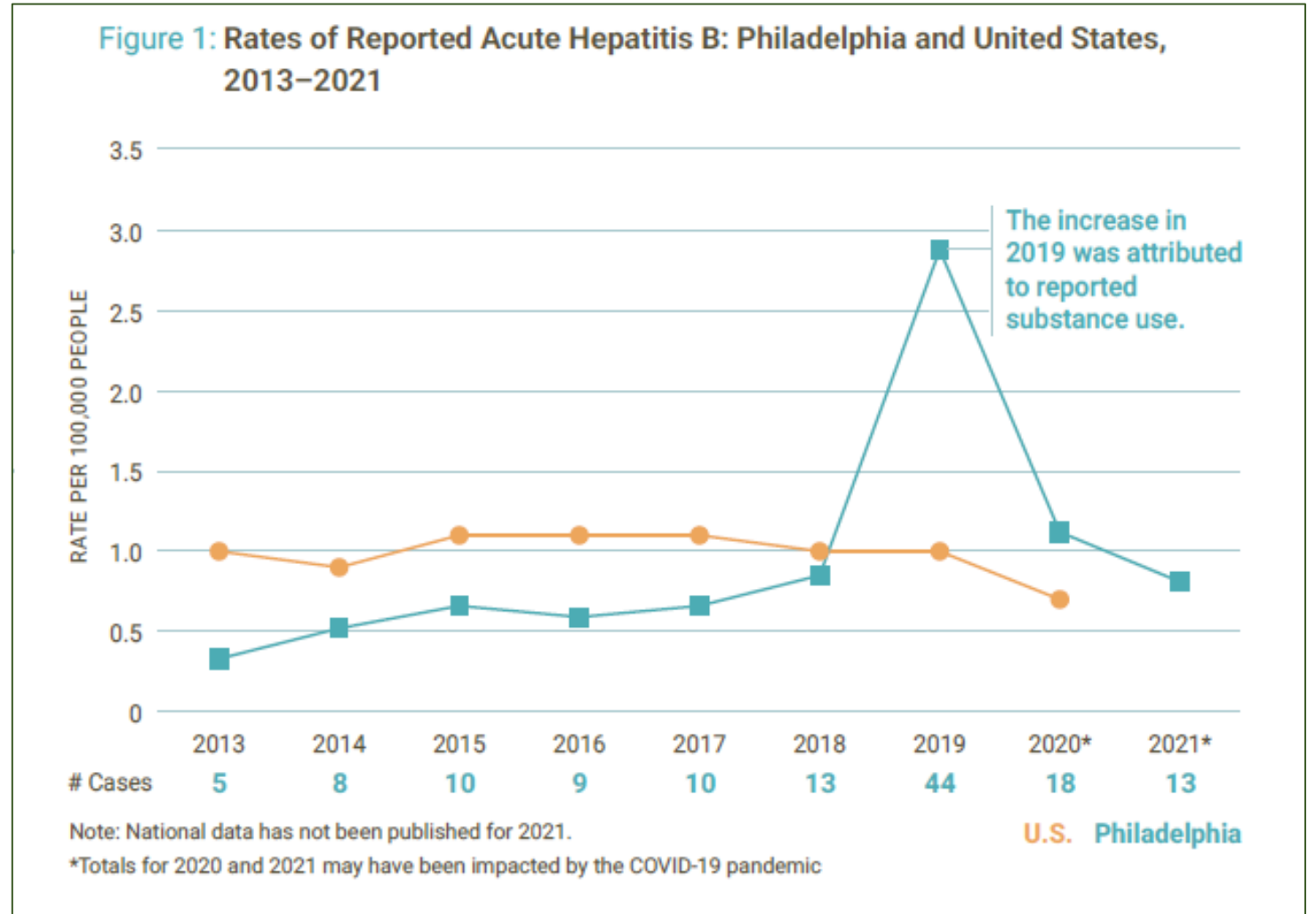
Source: CDC, National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System.

# History of Progress...And Need for More

Zero cases of perinatal transmission in Philadelphia since 2016!

## Acute Hepatitis B in Philadelphia, 2021

- Primary risk of substance use
  - US Born
- Mean age of 35 years



Data Source: Philadelphia Department of Public Health Division of Disease Control, Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C Surveillance Report, 2021. Philadelphia, PA: City of Philadelphia; May 2023

# Serology Among People Who Use Drugs in Philadelphia, 2018 (N=379)



20.3% (n=77) with Past infection  
 1.8% (n=7) with current HBV infection

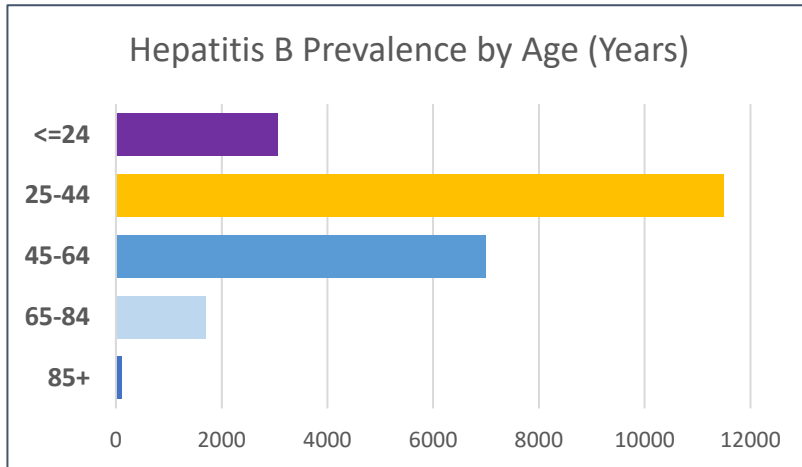
Immunity Status	N=379	%
<b>Hep B</b>		
Susceptible	148	40.9
Immune - vaccine	153	42.3
Immune - past exposure	61	16.9
<b>Hep A &amp; B</b>		
Susceptible	93	25.8

	Total N	Immunity to HBV (Row %)
<b>Birth Year*</b>		
<1980	132	78.8
1980-1989	157	41.4
1990+	74	54.0
<b>Gender</b>		
Female	116	60.3
Male	239	56.5
<b>Race</b>		
Black, Non-Hispanic	66	65.1
Hispanic	74	60.8
White, Non-Hispanic	200	53.0
Other	22	63.6
<b>Birthplace</b>		
USA	320	56.9
Other	28	57.1

# Hepatitis B Prevalence in Philadelphia, 2021

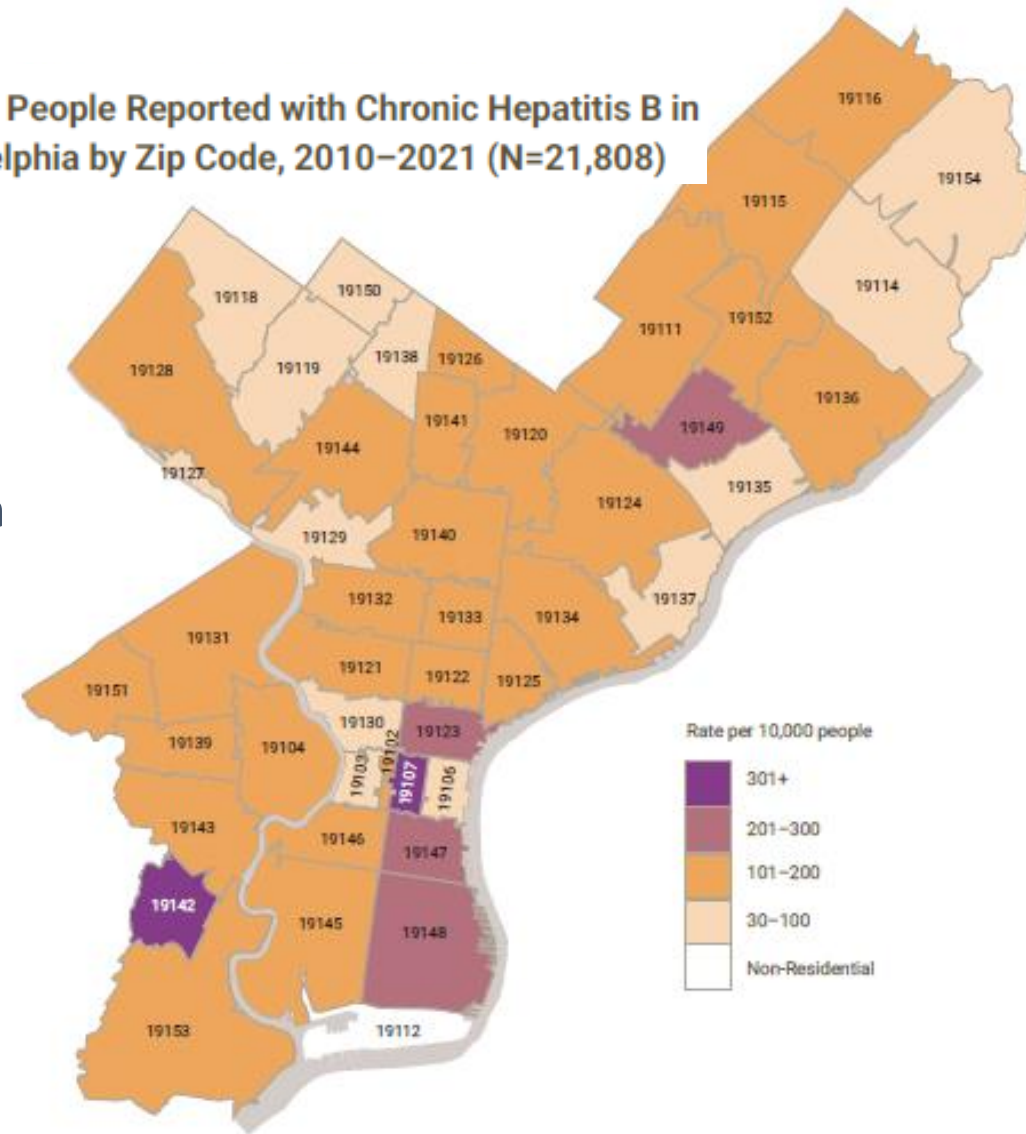
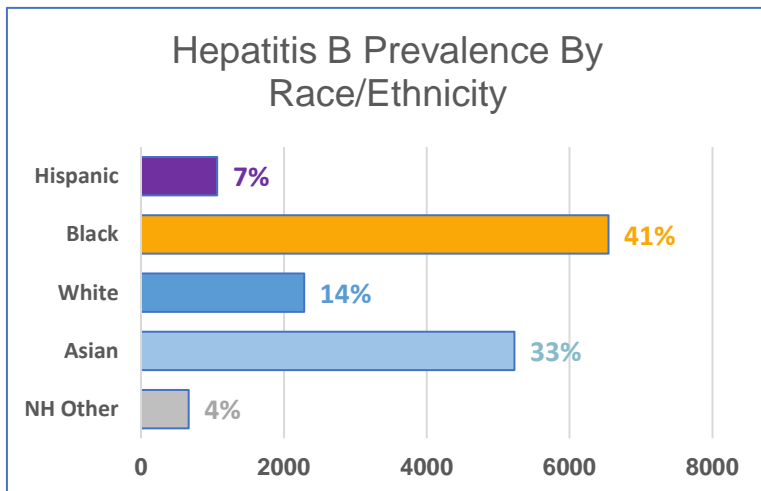
**24,633 people** (1.5% of residents) are KNOWN to be living with Hepatitis B in Philadelphia

Map 1: Rate of People Reported with Chronic Hepatitis B in Philadelphia by Zip Code, 2010–2021 (N=21,808)



**46%** among people born in endemic countries

**28%** among PWUD



Data Source: Philadelphia Department of Public Health Division of Disease Control, Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C Surveillance Report, 2021. Philadelphia, PA: City of Philadelphia; May 2023

# Universal Adult Guidelines



# Universal Hepatitis B Adult Vaccination Recommendation-2022

- ✓ Adults aged 19 - 59 years should all receive vaccination
- ✓ Adults aged  $\geq 60$  years with risk factors for hepatitis B should all receive vaccination
- ✓ Adults aged  $\geq 60$  years without known risk factors for hepatitis B should discuss with provider

Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR)

Universal Hepatitis B Vaccination in Adults Aged 19–59 Years: Updated Recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices — United States, 2022

Weekly / April 1, 2022 / 71(13);477–483

# Hepatitis B Adult Vaccination Info

Brand Names	Number Doses	Schedule
Engerix-B, Recombivax HB, Twinrix (w/ Hep A), PreHevbrio (newest)	3	0,1,6 months
Heplisav-B	2	0,1 month

## Insurance coverage

- Medicare Pt. D recipients
- Medicaid recipients
- Private Insurance

## Coverage Gaps and Challenges

- Uninsured
- Underinsured
- Out-of-pocket-costs
- Pharmacy Dispensing

Department of Public Health  
CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

Information collected by the Viral Hepatitis Program at the Philadelphia Department of Public Health  
For More Information Email: [hep-ddo@phila.gov](mailto:hep-ddo@phila.gov)

## Medicaid

### HealthChoices Plans Philadelphia County

INSURANCE	HEPLISAV-B	ENGERIX-B	RECOMBIVAX	TWINRIX	HAVRIX	VAQTA
Keystone First <sup>1</sup> 1-800-521-6860	\$\$\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Health Partners <sup>2</sup> 1-800-553-0784	\$\$\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
United Health <sup>3</sup> Community Plan 1-855-236-5937	\$\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$

1. <https://bit.ly/BCBHighmark> 2. <https://bit.ly/inspendentrobloxpress> 3. <https://bit.ly/signiformulary> 4. <https://bit.ly/gwingerformulary>  
\* Coverage is dependent on specific plan (contact insurance provider for further coverage details)

**\$** Covered, low or no copay (Medicaid copays range from \$1-\$3)  
**\$\$** Covered but may have a larger copay (Consult your insurance provider)  
**\$\$\$** NOT covered, entire price of vaccine is patient responsibility

Last Updated: 5/1/2022

# Why Universal Adult Hep B Vaccination?

- ✓ Acute cases of hepatitis B are increasing
- ✓ Gaps in adult HBV immunity despite recommendations
  - ✓ 3-dose series not always completed
- ✓ Conversations about risk can be time-consuming, complicated & stigma infused
- ✓ Reduce racial and ethnic healthcare access inequities
- ✓ Cost-effective disease prevention
- ✓ Cancer prevention
- ✓ Questions of waning immunity

# Implementation of Universal Vaccination in Adults

STEP  
1

Know your hepatitis B status.  
Get the triple panel screening test.

STEP  
2

Protect yourself from infection.  
Not vaccinated? Unsure? Get vaccinated.



Confirmation of vaccination is sufficient

- ✓ Screen for anti-HBs → presence indicates immunity
- ✓ Dated documentation of completed series (self-reported vaccination is flawed)

Consider patient care engagement

- ✓ If less engaged or more at-risk, forego waiting for screening results → vaccinate today!
- ✓ Consider if 2- or 3-dose series will be more likely to be completed/confer immunity

# Universal One-Time Screening for Hepatitis B for Adults

- ✓ Universal screening recommendation for adults 18-69 years of age
- ✓ Current & continued testing for those at risk
- ✓ Screen people during each pregnancy

Triple Screen for anti-HBs, anti-HBc, and HBsAg

**When paired with universal HBV screening, we can better ensure people are diagnosed early and/or protected**

# Hepatitis B Vaccination Implementation Considerations

## Implementing Hepatitis B Universal Adult Screening and Vaccination: Clinical Answers for Healthcare Professionals

Use this clinical resource to address common questions of healthcare team members who implement adult hepatitis B screening and vaccination guidelines.



- ✓ EMR prompts may assist
- ✓ Logistics of adult vaccination are a challenge
  - ✓ Storage and upfront cost
  - ✓ Partnerships with pharmacies
  - ✓ Follow up with patients if refer out to receive vaccination
- ✓ Consider special populations for implementation → Pregnant people
- ✓ Challenges of patient uptake
  - ✓ Change the narrative: cancer prevention!

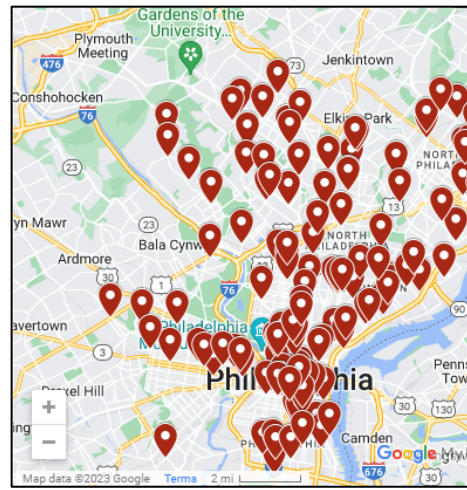
[www.immunize.org/catg.d/p2080.pdf](http://www.immunize.org/catg.d/p2080.pdf)  
Item #P2080 (7/21/2023)



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# Resources

- ✓ Phillyhepatitis.org
- ✓ Storage and Handling Guidance
- ✓ Hepcap.org/pharmacy-vaccine-maps/
- ✓ Palm card
- ✓ Out-of-pocket costs handout
- ✓ Immunize.org Ask the Experts
- ✓ Hepatitis B Foundation



INSURANCE	HEPLISAV-B	ENGERIX-B	RECOMBIVAX	TWINRIX	HAVRIX	VAQTA
<b>Medicaid</b> HealthChoices Plans Philadelphia County						
Keystone First <sup>1</sup> 1-800-521-6860	\$\$\$\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Health Partners <sup>2</sup> 1-800-553-0784	\$\$\$\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
United Health <sup>3</sup> Community Plan 1-855-236-5937	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
<b>Medicaid</b> Community HealthChoices						
Keystone First CHC <sup>1</sup> 1-855-332-0729	\$\$\$\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
PA Health and Wellness <sup>2</sup> 1-844-626-6813	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
UPMC CHC <sup>3</sup> 1-844-833-0523	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
<b>Private Insurers</b>						
BCBS Highmark <sup>1</sup> 1-800-241-5704	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Aetna <sup>2</sup> 1-888-509-6420	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Independence Blue Cross <sup>3</sup> 1-800-279-2583	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Cigna <sup>4</sup> 1-800-922-1957	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Coburn <sup>5</sup> 1-800-504-0443	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$

\$ Covered, low or no copay (Medicaid copays range from \$1-\$3)  
\$ Covered but may have a larger copay (Consult your insurance provider)  
\$ NOT covered, entire price of vaccine is patient responsibility

### Storage and Handling

Proper vaccine storage and handling play critical roles in efforts to prevent vaccine-preventable diseases. This page provides guidance on setting up and maintaining proper vaccine storage and handling at your site. If you have additional questions about how to properly store your VFC and VFAAR vaccines, email us at [TempCheck@phila.gov](mailto:TempCheck@phila.gov).

Please note: As part of the COVID-19 Vaccination Program Provider Agreement, all COVID-19 vaccine recipients agreed to store and handle COVID-19 vaccines under proper conditions, including maintaining cold chain conditions and chain of custody at all times. This webpage outlines how to set up, maintain, and document your site's storage and handling of the COVID-19 vaccine distributed to your site. **Guidance unique to the COVID vaccines is indicated in each section of this page with this symbol:** \*\*\* If you have questions about how to properly store your COVID-19 vaccine, contact our team at [TempCheck@phila.gov](mailto:TempCheck@phila.gov).

Information on the COVID-19 vaccines is constantly evolving! Check our [COVID-19 page](#) regularly for updates and contact our team at [COVIDVax@phila.gov](mailto:COVIDVax@phila.gov) with any questions.

**Quicklinks**

- Vaccine Cold Chain
- Staff and Training
- Vaccine Storage and Temperature Monitoring Equipment
- Defrosts
- Temperature Monitoring and Reporting
- Vaccine Transport
- Emergency Vaccine Storage and Handling
- Out of Range Temperatures: Excursions & Alarms

### HEPATITIS B

Reduce your risk of hepatitis B by:

- Getting Vaccinated
- Getting Tested

Talk to your healthcare provider!

Getting vaccinated protects you from hepatitis B

A simple blood test can tell you if you have hepatitis B

For more information on testing and vaccines visit:  
[phillyhepatitis.org](http://phillyhepatitis.org)  
[hepcap.org](http://hepcap.org)

### Get vaccinated and stop Hepatitis B!

HEPATITIS B PATHOGEN

Keep yourself and your circle Hep B free!

- Get vaccinated!
- Have safe sex (regular STD tests, condoms)
- Use clean needles when injecting drugs
- Discard menstrual products (pads, tampons) into plastic bags, cover cuts carefully and avoid sharing personal items (razors, earrings, etc.)

Visit your doctor, a City Health Center, or a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC), and ask for your Hepatitis B vaccine.

Have you or someone you know lost a loved one to an overdose? Email [griefsupport@phila.gov](mailto:griefsupport@phila.gov) or call (267) 354-0715

Need Support? Questions? Email [HEP-DD@phila.gov](mailto:HEP-DD@phila.gov), call 311, or visit: [www.phillyhepatitis.org/support-care](http://www.phillyhepatitis.org/support-care)

For pharmacies offering Hepatitis A & B Vaccines visit: [www.hepcap.org/community-tools/pharmacy-vaccine-maps](http://www.hepcap.org/community-tools/pharmacy-vaccine-maps)

### Additional Resources

**BenePhilly**  
(267) 804-9112  
Free enrollment support to apply for benefits

**CBH Philadelphia Crisis Line**  
(215) 685-6440  
Available 24/7

**Community Legal Services**  
(215) 981-3700  
Provides legal support

**Logisticare**  
(877) 835-7412  
Transportation Assistance for Medicaid recipients

**FPCN - Annex West**  
A partnership with Action Wellness  
3901 Market Street, 19104  
Phone: (267) 350-5150  
M to Th: 8:30am - 5pm

- Behavioral Health
- Health Insurance Assistance
- Transportation Assistance

**Spectrum Health Center**  
5201 Haverford Ave, 19139  
Phone: (215) 471-2761  
M to Th: 8AM to 5PM  
F: 8:30AM-5PM, Every 3rd F: 9:30AM-5PM  
Sa: 9AM-3PM (TELEHEALTH ONLY)

- Behavioral Health
- GIN and Prenatal Care
- Dental Care
- Pharmacy On-Site

### YOUR Health MATTERS

FIND YOUR ONE-STOP SHOP

A list of free/low cost clinics offering care for your physical and mental health

PHILLY HEPATITIS

### ANSWERS ABOUT HEPATITIS



[www.immunize.org/catg.d/p2080.pdf](http://www.immunize.org/catg.d/p2080.pdf)  
Item #P2080 (7/21/2023)

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# Closing Thoughts

- ✓ Hepatitis B Acute disease is increasing
- ✓ Many adults remain unvaccinated or non-immune for hepatitis B
- ✓ Universal Adult hepatitis B vaccination is a tool to ensure protection and prevent disease, including cancer
- ✓ 2- or 3-dose series are available and covered by most insurances
- ✓ Risk factors do not need to be discussed, screening not required
- ✓ Reach out to the Philadelphia Department of Public Health with implementation concerns!





Department of

**Public Health**

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# Thank You!

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