

## What if I can't afford to get my children vaccinated?

Vaccinations are usually free for children when families can't afford them. Call (800) 232-2522 or your local or state health department to find out where you can go for free or low-cost vaccinations. Your children's health depends on it!

## And here's a friendly reminder for parents!

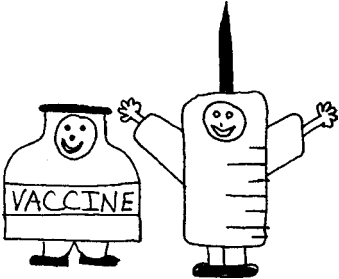
Adults need shots, too! Call your clinic or health department to find out what shots you need or when your next shots are due. Your children are counting on you to stay healthy!

**Everyone needs vaccinations!**

If you can't afford shots or don't know where to get them, contact your city, county, or state health department, or call (800) 232-2522.



All children  
0-18 years of age  
need hepatitis B  
vaccine!

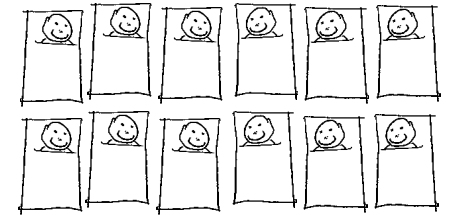


### Immunization Action Coalition

1573 Selby Avenue, Suite 234  
St. Paul, MN 55104  
(651) 647-9009  
[www.immunize.org](http://www.immunize.org)  
[www.vaccineinformation.org](http://www.vaccineinformation.org)

The Immunization Action Coalition (IAC) encourages you to make and distribute copies of this brochure. If you alter it, please acknowledge that it was adapted from IAC. The technical content was reviewed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

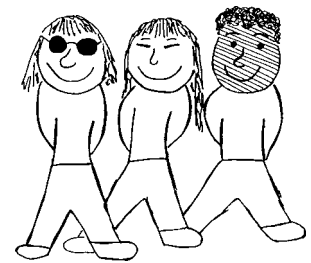
# All kids need hepatitis B shots!



little ones,



medium-sized ones,



and big ones, too!

## What is hepatitis B?

Hepatitis B is a serious liver disease caused by a virus. This virus can enter the blood stream, attack the liver, and cause severe illness. In some cases, the virus can remain in the body for a lifetime and cause ongoing liver damage.

## How do children and teens get hepatitis B?

Lots of ways. Hepatitis B can be spread by:

- coming in contact with an infected person's blood or body fluids
- sharing toothbrushes, razors, washcloths, or needles of an infected person
- human bites
- sex with an infected person
- ear piercing, body piercing, or tattooing with unsterile equipment



## Why do my children need hepatitis B shots?

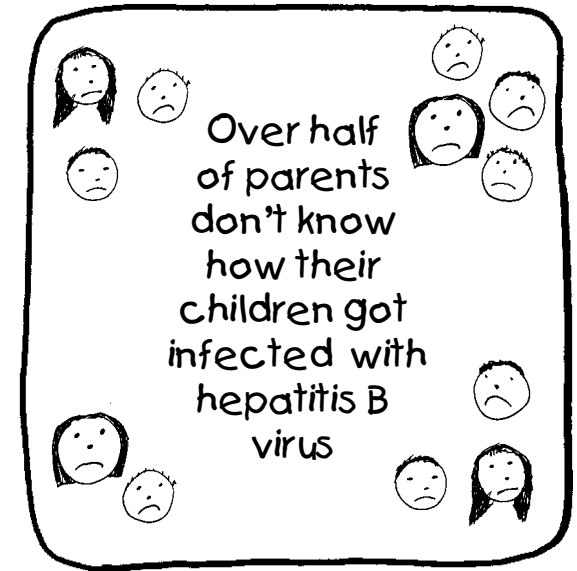
All the major medical groups in the United States agree that all children 0–18 years of age need hepatitis B shots in order to be protected from this disease. All babies should receive hepatitis B shots along with all their other baby shots. If your children and teens were not vaccinated against hepatitis B when they were babies, vaccinate them now.

## Is my child at increased risk for hepatitis B virus infection?

Anyone can get hepatitis B. However, children who were born, or whose parents were born, outside the United States where hepatitis B is a serious problem may be at increased risk for hepatitis B virus infection.

Some of the places where hepatitis B is a serious problem include Asia, Africa, the Pacific Islands, Eastern Europe, the Former Soviet Union, and South America.

If you aren't sure about the seriousness of hepatitis B in your country of origin, check with your doctor or public health department. Your doctor may want to test your children at the time of the first vaccination to make sure they haven't already been infected with hepatitis B virus.



## Should I let my children be vaccinated at school?

Many children are now being offered the hepatitis B vaccine at school. If your child is being offered the vaccine at school, you can save yourself and/or your child some trips to the doctor's office!

## How safe is this vaccine?



The hepatitis B vaccine is one of the safest vaccines available. It has been used in the United States since 1982 and has been shown to be safe and effective.