



The Virginia Perinatal Hepatitis B  
Prevention Program.....

*"Working with you towards a healthy  
future for Virginia's little citizens".*



# Virginia Perinatal Hepatitis B Prevention

Protecting the Future  
of  
Virginia's Little Citizens

Virginia Perinatal Hepatitis B Prevention Program

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**VDH** VIRGINIA  
DEPARTMENT  
OF HEALTH  
*Protecting You and Your Environment*



## The Facts



Approximately 1.25 million persons in the U.S. are infected with chronic hepatitis B. Of these, approximately 4,000-5,000 die each year from chronic liver disease.

Children less than 5 years of age infected with the hepatitis B virus (HBV) have a 30-50% chance of chronic infection and chronic liver disease.

Up to 90% of infants perinatally infected will develop chronic infection. Of these infants, 15%-25% will die of chronic liver disease as adults.

Perinatal transmission accounts for 24% of chronic infections.

## The Program

The Virginia Perinatal Hepatitis B Prevention (VPHBP) program is a collaborative effort with local health departments and private providers to identify hepatitis B surface antigen (HBsAg) positive pregnant women and their household contacts and sexual partners. Once identified, free testing and vaccine, if needed, is provided to the contacts and partners of these women.

Free Hepatitis B Immune Globulin (HBIG) and hepatitis B (HB) vaccine for newborns of infected mothers are provided to the delivery hospital and the infant's physician to prevent the spread of HBV from mother to newborn.

## Pregnancy

All pregnant women are required by law to be tested for HBsAg during an early prenatal visit.

All HBsAg positive pregnant women are reportable by law to the Virginia Department of Health (VDH).

When a pregnant woman tests positive for HBsAg:

- Her positive test result is reported to the local health department.
- The local health department reports the result to the VDH and notifies the VPHBP program.
- The VPHBP program initiates disease intervention activities to identify and vaccinate household contacts and sexual partners.



The goal of the VPHBP program is to work closely with local health departments and health care providers to prevent the perinatal transmission of hepatitis B, thereby reducing the incidence of hepatitis B disease in Virginia.



## Services

Tracking contacts and infants of HBsAg positive pregnant women to ensure that appropriate treatment is received, thereby eliminating the transmission of perinatal hepatitis B.

Free prevaccination testing for sexual partners and household contacts of the HBsAg positive pregnant woman and free HB vaccine for all susceptible partners and contacts. The local health departments, upon referral from the VPHBP program, provide these services.

The infant's physician and the delivery hospital are alerted about the HBsAg positive status of the mother.

HBIG and HB vaccine are provided at no charge to the delivery hospitals.

Free HB vaccine for completion of the series is provided to the infant's physician.

Free postvaccination testing for infants 3-9 months after completion of the HB vaccine series to ensure protection against HBV.

*"The acute and chronic consequences of hepatitis B virus (HBV) infection are major health problems in the United States."*

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