



# Mommy, Baby, and Hepatitis B

*What you  
need to  
know to  
protect  
you and  
your baby.*

## **What is hepatitis B?**

Hepatitis B is a serious liver infection, caused by the hepatitis B virus. It can lead to liver failure and cancer. It is very common among Asians and Pacific Islanders. The virus can be spread from a woman to her child at birth, or through unprotected sex and infected blood.



*All pregnant  
women should  
be tested for  
hepatitis B!  
Talk to your  
doctor.*

## **If you do not have hepatitis B:**

- Protect yourself and your baby with a safe and effective 3-shot vaccine. Be sure to complete the series! Your newborn gets the shots at birth, 1-2 months, and 6 months.
- The vaccine is also safe for premature babies.

## **If you have hepatitis B:**

- Notify your doctor at the hospital of your hepatitis B status.
- Get your family members tested for hepatitis B.
- Your baby will get an extra shot at birth.
- Test your baby at 9-18 months to confirm your baby is protected.
- You can breastfeed your baby. Breastfeeding is still safe.

Keep your hepatitis B vaccine record and bring it to your medical visits.

*For more information:  
Contact your doctor,  
your local health department,  
or call the Family Health Hotline at*  
**(800) 322-2588**  
*or online: [www.apihepbwa.org](http://www.apihepbwa.org)*

Presented by the Washington State Asian & Pacific Islander Hepatitis B Task Force, a program of WithinReach.