

# Required Reportable Conditions

## Hepatitis B Surface Antigen (HBsAg) Positivity During Pregnancy

Since December 2000, HBsAg-positive status during pregnancy has been a required reportable condition in Washington State. Health care providers are legally required to report this status to local health departments within 3 working days, according to Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 246-101-101.

### Why Report?

- The primary reason to identify and report HBsAg-positive pregnant women during each pregnancy is to prevent the spread of hepatitis B virus to their infants. These babies are at very high risk of getting the infection and developing serious long-term medical conditions unless post-exposure prevention is given on time.
- Local public health department staff work with private providers to make sure that:
  - Mothers get counseled about preventing the spread of HBV to their infants and their household contacts and sexual partners get referred to a specialist for follow-up;
  - Infants get hepatitis B immune globulin (HBIG) and hepatitis B vaccine Dose #1 at birth, Dose #2 at 1-2 months of age, and Dose #3 at 6 months of age;
  - Infants get post-vaccine testing (HBsAg and anti-HBs) at 9-18 months of age (3–9 months after the third dose of hepatitis B vaccine) to check infectivity and immune status; and,
  - Household contacts and sexual partners get pre-vaccination testing and immunization with hepatitis B vaccine, if susceptible.

### When to Report?

A report should be made at any time during **each** pregnancy in which the pregnant woman tests HBsAg positive. It is the prenatal care provider's responsibility to make sure the delivery hospital knows of an HBsAg-positive mother prior to her baby's birth so that the baby gets proper treatment.

### What are the Reporting Requirements?

Health care providers who request the HBsAg test during prenatal care or at the time of delivery must report all HBsAg-positive pregnant women to his or her local public health departments.

For further questions, please contact your local health department or the Washington State Department of Health Immunization Program CHILD Profile at (360) 236-3698.