

## Hepatitis C Virus (HCV)

Infects 30,000 people in the U.S. each year. Over 3 million people in U.S. are living with HCV and most are not aware of it. Most people do not have signs of disease and may not have symptoms until 10 to 40 years after infection. HCV is spread from blood-to-blood contact. HCV can be treated and many will get rid of the virus.

### You may be at risk of getting HCV if you:

- received blood products before 1987
- received blood or organs before 1992
- shared needles or equipment to shoot drugs (even if it was just once or many years ago)
- were born between 1945-1965
- share items that may have blood on them (toothbrushes, razors, nail clippers, ear piercing, body-piercing or tattoo equipment)
- are born to a mother with the virus
- live with HIV

### You can protect yourself from getting HCV if you:

- avoid sharing any items that may have blood on them
- avoid sharing needles or other drug equipment to shoot drugs



### Get the hepatitis A and hepatitis B vaccines:

- if you are at risk of getting hepatitis
- as part of routine vaccines
- to be safe from getting HAV or HBV
- if you have HCV

Talk to your doctor or nurse about getting the hepatitis A and B vaccines.

### For more information

Call your doctor,  
your local health department,  
or go to:

[www.cdc.gov/hepatitis](http://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis)

[www.hcvadvocate.org/hbv](http://www.hcvadvocate.org/hbv)

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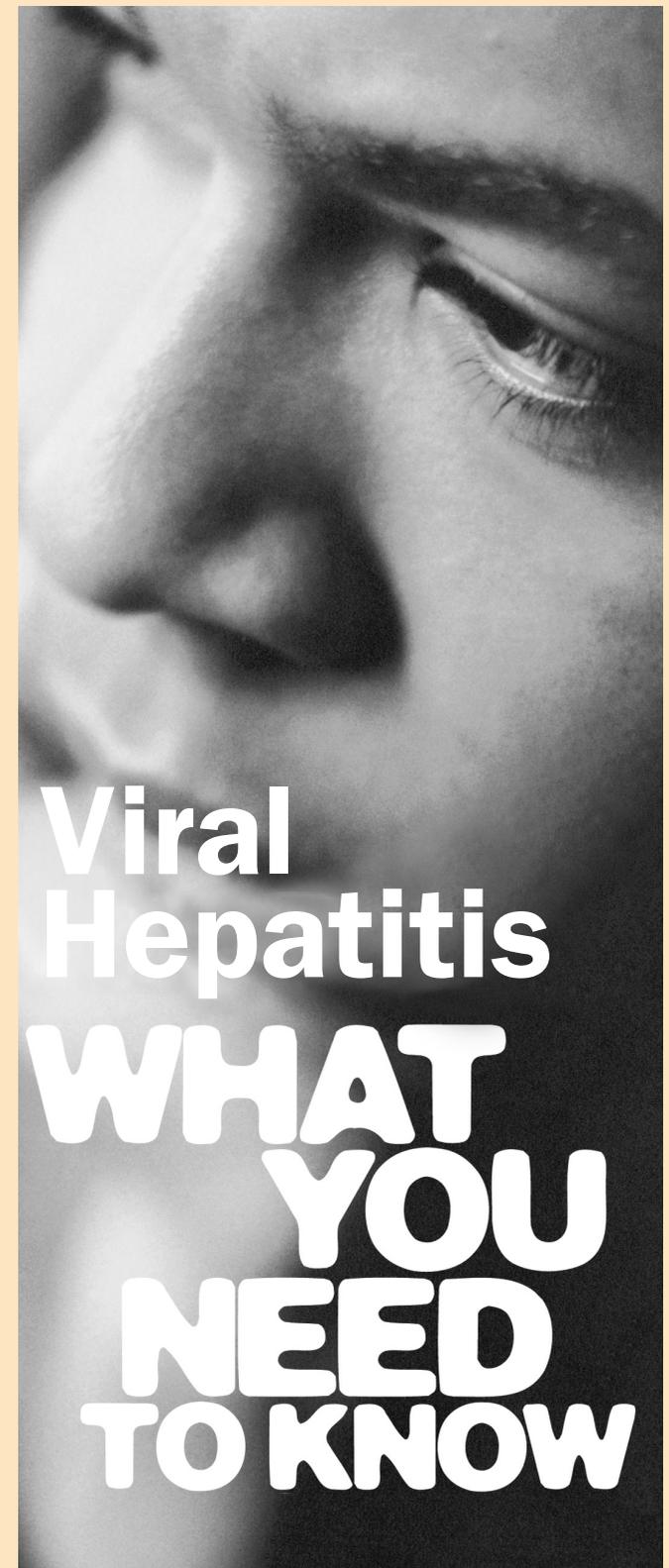
[www.michigan.gov/hepatitis](http://www.michigan.gov/hepatitis)



Michigan Department of Health & Human Services

RICK SNYDER, GOVERNOR | NICK LYON, DIRECTOR

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## Viral Hepatitis

Is caused by a virus that infects the liver and can be spread to others. Hepatitis A, B and C are the most common types and can all lead to severe illness or even death.

### People with signs of hepatitis may:

- feel tired all the time
- have a fever
- have aching muscles or joints
- have an upset stomach or throw up
- have stomach pain
- have diarrhea
- have jaundice (yellowing of the skin or eyes)
- have dark urine
- have light-colored stools
- not feel hungry

The only way for you to know if you have viral hepatitis A, B or C is to get a blood test. Talk to your doctor or nurse about what blood tests you need.

## Hepatitis A Virus (HAV)

Infects 3,500 people in the U.S. each year. HAV may make you very sick, but often goes away within three to six months. HAV is spread from person-to-person contact through the fecal-oral route or through food or water with HAV in it.



### You may be at risk of getting HAV if you:

- eat food or drink water with HAV in it
- live with someone who has HAV
- travel to or live in countries where HAV is common
- are a man who has sex with other men
- have sexual contact with someone with HAV
- share injection/non-injection drugs or street drugs
- have clotting factor disorders
- are a contact of an adoptive child from a place where HAV is common
- have children who go to the same day care as someone who has HAV

### You can protect yourself from getting HAV if you:

- get the hepatitis A vaccine
- boil or cook your food and water if you travel to countries where HAV is common
- wash your hands before handling food
- wash your hands after using the restroom and after diaper changing

## Hepatitis B Virus (HBV)

Infects 20,000 people in the U.S. each year. Over 1.4 million people have chronic (having HBV for more than six months) HBV and will have it for the rest of their lives. HBV is spread from person-to-person through blood or bodily fluids.

### You may be at risk of getting HBV if you:

- come in contact with blood or body fluids with HBV in it
- share items that may have blood on them (toothbrushes, razors, nail clippers, ear piercing, body piercing or tattoo equipment)
- are born to a mother with HBV
- live with someone who has HBV
- have high-risk sex with someone who has HBV
- share needles or equipment to inject drugs
- have diabetes
- are on dialysis, pre-dialysis or have end-stage renal disease
- are at risk of getting HBV due to job duties
- live with liver disease including HCV
- live with HIV

### You can protect yourself from getting HBV if you:

- get the hepatitis B vaccine
- avoid blood and body fluids
- avoid sharing any items that may have blood on them
- avoid sharing needles or other drug equipment to shoot drugs
- practice safe sex