

# STD Facts

## Hepatitis: Type B (caused by hepatitis B virus)

### SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS

Hepatitis B Symptoms:

- Begin 45-180 days after exposure
- Same symptoms as Type A
- Pain in muscles and joints

### TRANSMISSION

Hepatitis B is Spread by:

- Vaginal sex
- Anal sex
- Oral sex
- Sharing needles for injecting drugs, body piercing or tattooing
- Infected mother to newborn
- Sharing personal items (razors, tooth brushes, nail clippers, pierced earrings)

### COMPLICATIONS/CONSEQUENCES

Hepatitis B:

- Can lead to chronic liver disease, cirrhosis, liver cancer and death
- Infected mother can pass virus to newborn
- Infected baby may become a carrier
- Carriers able to infect others
- Less than 1% of people die during the acute phase of infection

### PREVENTION

Recommendations to Limit Spread of Hepatitis B:

- Don't share needles for drugs, tattooing or piercing
- Latex condoms, when used consistently and correctly, can reduce the risk of transmission of hepatitis B
- Always use latex condoms during vaginal and anal sex
- Use a latex condom for oral sex on a penis
- Use a latex barrier for oral sex on a vagina or anus (dental dam or condom cut in half)
- Limit the number of sex partners
- Don't share personal items like razors
- When infant is born to an infected mother, immunize infant at birth
- Hepatitis B vaccine is recommended for all infants, adolescents, sexually active adults and others

### TREATMENT

Management of Exposure to Hepatitis B:

- Hepatitis B immune globulin injection given within 7 days after blood exposure or 14 days after sexual contact; vaccine may also be recommended

### FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

Nevada State Health Division  
Bureau of Community Health  
HIV/AIDS STD TB Hepatitis Program  
505 East King Street, Room 103  
Carson City, Nevada 89701  
(775) 684-5902

CDC National STD and AIDS Hotlines  
1-800-227-8922 or 1-800-342-2437  
1-800-243-7889 TTY  
1-800-344-7432 (Spanish)  
[www.ashastd.org](http://www.ashastd.org)

CDC Hepatitis Hotline  
(404) 332-4555