

# Easy B Facts

## Piercings and HBV

There is a chance that a person could get hepatitis B (HBV for short) while having a piercing if safety practices are not followed very carefully.

The chance of getting HBV from a piercing is considered a low risk, but if you had a piercing in any setting where safety precautions were not followed carefully – for instance, from a friend or on the street – it might be a good idea to get tested for HBV. Another way to get

protection is by getting the HBV vaccine if you have not been previously infected.

If you decide to get a body piercing be sure to go to a commercial piercing studio that pays close attention to safety. You may want to ask them if you can watch while they set up a piercing or they may even let you watch while they are working on someone else so that you can see that they are closely following safety procedures.

***We recommend that people get a piercing in a commercial piercing studio that practices the following safety measures:***

- Sterilize any equipment that may come into contact with blood
- Only use new needles. All needles should be individually wrapped and the packages should be opened in front of you
- The shop is clean and all surfaces are disinfected
- Use only new safety gloves
- Dispose of all equipment that may have come into contact with blood; use a “sharps” bin or a puncture-proof container
- Never get a piercing with a piercing gun
- Visit [www.safepiercing.org](http://www.safepiercing.org) for more information to keep you safe



**HBV ADVOCATE**

[www.hbvadvocate.org](http://www.hbvadvocate.org)

**Hepatitis C  
Support Project**

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