

Easy B Facts

HBV Transmission & Prevention

The hepatitis B virus (HBV) is spread or transmitted from contact with HBV infected blood and bodily fluids.

The most common ways that people get or become infected with hepatitis B are:

- Having sex with someone who has the hepatitis B virus
- An HBV-infected mother can transmit HBV to her baby during birth
- Sharing needles or works used to inject drugs that are infected with HBV
- Health care workers may be exposed to the virus through a needle stick or not wearing gloves
- Sharing personal items such razors, toothbrushes, nail clippers, and earrings

You can prevent the transmission of HBV by following these safety tips:

- Get vaccinated against HBV if you have not already been infected.
- Practice safer sex to prevent getting HBV and other sexually transmitted diseases.
- Use only new needles and works – cookers, cottons, ties, water, etc.
- Make sure to only use new needles for tattoo and piercings – make sure a separate ink pot is used for each person and all other equipment is sterilized.
- Do not share personal items such as razors, toothbrushes, nail clippers or earrings.
- Stay away from any open cuts or wounds.

Hepatitis B is caused by a virus (a kind of germ)

You could get Hepatitis B if you:

- Have sex with someone who has the virus.
- Share needles or drugs.
- Share earrings, razors, nail clippers, or toothbrushes.
- Pierce your body or get a tattoo when infected tools are used.
- Touch infected blood or bodily fluids.



HBV ADVOCATE
www.hbvadvocate.org

**Hepatitis C
Support Project**

VERSION 4.0 • January 2009