



UK Health
Security
Agency

Hepatitis B contact tracing

Information for people newly diagnosed with hepatitis B

What is contact tracing and why do we do it?

Anyone living with hepatitis B (whether they have an acute or chronic infection) can pass this virus on to others in close contact with them, via blood, semen or vaginal fluids.

Hepatitis B vaccine has recently been introduced into the UK routine immunisation schedule for infants. This means many adults and older children may not have been given the vaccine. Hepatitis B vaccine is highly safe and effective at protecting against this virus.

By identifying people in close contact with someone living with hepatitis B, contacting them and helping arrange testing and vaccination, we can help prevent them acquiring hepatitis B.

There is no risk of infection from social contact, so visitors and friends do not need protection. The virus is not passed on during normal social contact such as holding hands, hugging, kissing or sharing plates, cups or cutlery. It is also not spread through contaminated food or water.

How can I arrange contact tracing for those close to me?

If you have recently been told you have hepatitis B then we would recommend those you are in close contact with are tested for and vaccinated against hepatitis B.

This includes:

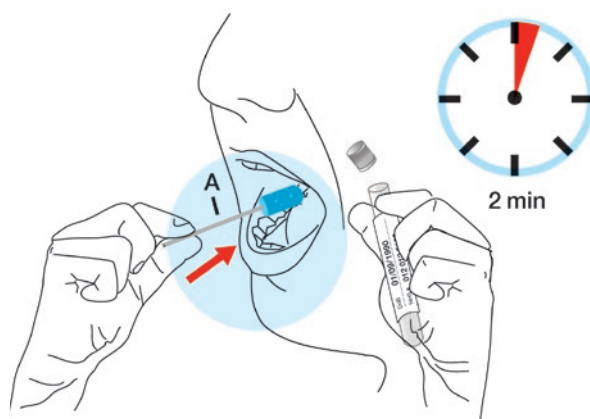
- people who live in your household, for example as part of a family unit, including children
- people you have sex with

You can help look after them by talking to them about your test results. You can also show them this leaflet to help explain.

The UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) is running a pilot scheme to contact people close to those diagnosed with hepatitis B, who may be at risk of acquiring this, to arrange home testing and help with the process of arranging a free vaccine via their GP.

Representatives from UKHSA are contacting people who have been recently diagnosed with hepatitis B by telephone to offer contact tracing for their close contacts. If you agree, we will contact them and offer testing in the form of an Oral Fluid Test kit for hepatitis B (a test taken by using a swab to collect saliva in their mouth) and provide advice on vaccination. They will be contacted once the test results are back and advised if any further steps are necessary.

Please see this pictogram on how the oral fluid tests are taken:



How do we use and share your data?

Your personal information will only be shared with your consent in order to arrange testing for your contacts. This sharing of personal data is in accordance with data protection legislation.

Do I have to take part in this?

No, you do not have to take part and you will be offered a call back if you would like a call after some time to think. We would encourage you to take part to allow those close to you to be tested and protected with vaccination.

Alternatively, you can advise your close contacts to attend their GP explaining they are in close contact with someone living with hepatitis B, and would like testing and vaccination (their nearest practice can be found via the NHS website: www.nhs.uk/service-search/find-a-gp if they are not registered).

Not participating does not affect your rights and entitlements to NHS healthcare.



More information:

- Hepatitis B – HepB Companion – **Language Guides**
- Hepatitis B – NHS (www.nhs.uk) – **www.nhs.uk/conditions/hepatitis-b**