Universal Hepatitis B Vaccination in Adults Aged 19–59 Years: Updated Recommendations of the ACIP—United States, 2022

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The Summit Weekly Update
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Outline

- ACIP hepatitis B vaccine recommendations
- Draft CDC hepatitis B testing and screening recommendations
- Promotion and implementation of new recommendations
Overview of New ACIP Hepatitis B Vaccine Recommendations

Advances in adult hepatitis B vaccine recommendations

Updated hepatitis B vaccination recommendations published in April 2022: A move away from risk-based approaches

- All adults 19-59 years and adults ≥60 years with risk factors should receive hepatitis B vaccines
- Adults ≥60 years without known risk factors may receive hepatitis B vaccines

Risk-based hepatitis B immunization among adults: a partial success

- Initial decreases in new hep B infections plateaued 10 years ago
- Rates are now highest among adults
- Rates have increased among adults >40 years of age

HepB vaccination coverage decreased in older-aged adults with ≥1 risk factor*

*Risk Factors: Diabetic, has chronic liver disease, OR traveled to HBV endemic country
Limitations of a risk-based approach

Availability of information regarding risk behaviors or exposures associated with reported cases of acute hepatitis B virus infection — United States, 2019

2/3 of reported cases were either missing risk data or reported no identified risk


Health equity: Disparities could be reduced with a universal adult HepB recommendation

- Rates of HBV infection for children and adolescents of all races/ethnicities converged to a lower rate when a universal vaccination strategy was implemented for children ≤18y.¹,²
- Current rates among Black American adults are now up to 3x those of Asian/Pacific Islander and Hispanic groups.¹
- Racial/ethnic disparities remain in hepatitis B virus infections.

Rates of reported acute HBV infections, by race/ethnicity—United States, 2004–2019

Source: https://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/statistics/2019surveillance/HepB.htm

¹ Wasley et al. MMWR. 2008
### Benefits: universal adult vaccination against HBV infection among general population adults, United States

- Increase percent of people protected
- Avert additional HBV-related outcomes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Outcome</th>
<th>3-dose Strategy, n (IQR)</th>
<th>2-dose Strategy, n (IQR)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Vaccination outcomes</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>% protected, current strategy</td>
<td>23.7 (23.7–23.7)</td>
<td>23.7 (23.7–23.7)</td>
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<tr>
<td>% protected, intervention strategy</td>
<td>44.9 (44.9–44.9)</td>
<td>45.7 (45.6–45.7)</td>
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<td><strong>Epidemiological outcomes</strong></td>
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<td>% of chronic HBV infections averted</td>
<td>24.2 (18.2–30.0)</td>
<td>24.0 (18.0–29.7)</td>
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<tr>
<td>% of HBV deaths</td>
<td>22.8 (17.3–27.3)</td>
<td>22.2 (16.7–27.0)</td>
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Considerations

- Evidence supports a universal HepB vaccination approach over risk-based vaccination approaches toward lowering barriers to vaccination.

- Universal hepatitis B vaccination recommendation among adults will provide best chance of achieving HBV elimination goals

- More vaccine tools available than when risk-based policy was first recommended
  - Two 3-dose monovalent vaccines are available; safe, effective with long-term immunogenicity (>35 y)
  - One 2-dose vaccine is available; safe and effective
  - One 3-dose, 3-antigen vaccine recently FDA approved and ACIP recommended

Advances in adult hepatitis B screening and testing recommendations

Screening and testing guidelines posted in the Federal Register for public comment

- Proposed recommendation: at least once in a lifetime for adults aged ≥ 18 years
- Public comment closes June 3, 2022

https://www.federalregister.gov/d/2022-07050

Next Steps

- Spring 2022: Review and respond to peer review and FRN comments (60-day comment period)
- Summer 2022: Submit the revised guidelines to CDC clearance
- By end of 2022:
  - MMWR publication
  - Integrated hepatitis B testing and vaccination guidance
Promotion and Implementation

Promotion of ACIP Adult Hepatitis B Vaccination Recommendations

- MMWR Promotion

- Increase awareness via webinars
  - National Viral Hepatitis Education, Awareness, and Capacity Building for Communities and Providers Cooperative Agreement Part B recipient meeting (University of Washington & WebMD) – January 10, 2022
  - National Adult and Influenza Immunization Summit (NAIIS) weekly call – January 13, 2022
  - CDC Immunization Services Division Program Operations Branch recipient call (Immunization Managers) – January 19, 2022
  - Indian Health Service Grand Rounds – March 23, 2022
  - Hepatitis B Foundation, NASTAD and AIM webinar – April 25, 2022
  - Hepatitis B Foundation HBV ECHO – April 28, 2022
  - More to come...
Provider Outreach - Resources for Clinicians

- **CDC’s Current Issues in Immunization April 20 Webinar**
  - Immunization Update on ACIP Recommendations for Hepatitis B, Pneumococcal and Zoster Vaccines. Dr. Mark Weng, MD, from CDC’s Viral Hepatitis program participated in this presentation.

- **University of Washington – Hepatitis B Online**
  - Free continuing medical education, tools, and resources for clinicians, pharmacists and others about hepatitis B, including vaccination
  - Univ of Washington Hepatitis B online can be found at [www.hepatitisB.uw.edu](http://www.hepatitisB.uw.edu)

- **Immunize.org Resources**
  - Immunize.org updated its popular, “Ask the Experts: Hepatitis B” webpage, which includes an extensive list of clinical questions and answers incorporating the updated hepatitis B vaccination recommendation.
  - [Standing Orders For Administering Hepatitis B Vaccine to Adults](https://www.immunize.org) (immunize.org)

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Ways to Promote Hepatitis Awareness Month 2022:

- Use and share our Awareness Month content and social media toolkit
  - Visit [www.cdc.gov/hepatitis](http://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis)
  - Click on Hepatitis Awareness Month box at the top
- Engage with us on Twitter @cdchepl
- Use the Awareness Month hashtags:
  - #HepatitisAwarenessMonth
  - #Hepatitis #HepAware2022
Implementation

- ACIP Adult Hepatitis B Vaccination Recommendations AND CDC Recommendations for Hepatitis B Screening and Testing
  - Explore model hepatitis B programs to screen, vaccinate or link-to-care following the new universal screening and vaccination recommendations and associated clinical considerations
  - Leverage Integrated Viral Hepatitis Surveillance and Prevention Funding for Health Departments (IVHSP) - CDC-RFA-PS21-2103
    - Component 2: Core Viral Hepatitis Prevention Activities
  - Utilize CDC partnerships and cooperative agreements for public and provider education
  - Engage with federal and non-federal partners to explore implementation opportunities
  - Improve immunization practices through collaboration, syndemic approaches, and innovation

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For more information, contact CDC
1-800-CDC-INFO (232-4636)

The findings and conclusions in this report are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Additional references available upon request
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