

# GET YOUR HEPATITIS B (HBV) VACCINE!



## What does this vaccine protect against?

### Protects against the hepatitis B infection.

- **Hepatitis B** is an infection in the liver that is caused by the hepatitis B virus. Up to 1 out of 10 adults who get infected with hepatitis B will develop an infection that does not go away (chronic infection). A chronic hepatitis B infection can lead to liver damage (cirrhosis), liver cancer, and death.
- Hepatitis B spreads by contact with the blood and body fluids of a person who is infected. It can spread through childbirth, sharing needles, razors, nail clippers, or toothbrushes, contact with equipment that is not cleaned properly (such as needles used for tattoos and body piercings), sexual contact, etc.



## Who should get this vaccine?

- This vaccine is offered as part of the routine school immunization program to Grade 6 students (11-12 years old).
- Grade 9 students (14-15 years old) who missed getting the vaccine at the scheduled time can also get it in school.
- You should also get this vaccine if you are at risk for hepatitis B due to specific health problems, the type of work you do, etc.

## Who should not get this vaccine?

- If you have an allergy to any component of the vaccine.
  - If you had a severe (serious) or unusual side effect after this vaccine or one like it.
- That being said, most students are eligible for this vaccine in Alberta.



**What are the side effects of this vaccine?** The side effects tend to be very mild and temporary and include redness/swelling/soreness at the injection site, fatigue, headache, fever, poor appetite, nausea, vomiting, stomach pain, etc. Side effect symptoms can be managed by placing a cool, wet cloth on the injection site or by taking medications like ibuprofen or acetaminophen to deal with fever or pain.

## If you have any additional questions or want to schedule your vaccination, you can:

- Call Health Link at 811
- Call AIMGA's Multilingual Health Hub for Newcomers Phone Line at 1-587-392-8062
- Contact your family physician or primary care network
- Visit [booking.aimga.ca](https://booking.aimga.ca) to book a patient navigator