

BITING, SPITTING AND HEPATITIS

For Emergency and Corrective Services

HEPATITIS B AND C ARE **NOT** TRANSMITTED BY



BODY FLUIDS: URINE, FAECES, SALIVA OR SWEAT



SOCIAL CONTACT



CLOSE PHYSICAL CONTACT LIKE KISSING OR HUGGING



SHARING CUPS OR CUTLERY



EATING FOOD MADE BY SOMEONE WITH HEP B OR C

HEPATITIS B AND C ARE TRANSMITTED BY



UNSTERILISED TATTOOING & BODY PIERCING



INJECTING DRUG USE



PERSONAL GROOMING ITEMS: TOOTHBRUSHES, RAZORS ETC



BLOOD TRANSFUSIONS (IN AUSTRALIA BEFORE 1990)



NEEDLE STICK INJURIES

HEPATITIS B IS TRANSMITTED THROUGH BLOOD-TO-BLOOD CONTACT AND SEXUAL FLUIDS. HEPATITIS C IS TRANSMITTED THROUGH BLOOD-TO-BLOOD CONTACT.

WHAT DO I DO IF I'VE BEEN BITTEN OR SPAT ON?

1

INFORM YOUR SUPERVISOR OR MANAGER

2

YOU SHOULD BE RELEASED FROM DUTY TO BEGIN A RISK ASSESSMENT PROCESS

3

CLINICAL EVALUATION SHOULD INCLUDE THE POSSIBILITY THAT BOTH PEOPLE MAY HAVE BEEN EXPOSED TO HEP B AND/OR HEP C.

HOW TO PREVENT HEPATITIS B AND C

It is recommended that all staff are **vaccinated for hepatitis B**. If you are unsure whether you have been vaccinated in the past, speak to your doctor and request a blood test to check your immunity to hepatitis B.

There is currently no vaccine for hepatitis C.

Using standard precautions and infection control procedures will reduce the risk of transmission of hepatitis B or hepatitis C in the workplace.



Questions? Call our free Infoline

1800 437 222



HEPATITIS QUEENSLAND
Hepatitis and Liver Health

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CAN I STILL HAVE PHYSICAL CONTACT WITH MY FAMILY IF I'VE BEEN BITTEN OR SPAT ON?

There is no reason to change how you engage with your family if you have been bitten or spat on in the workplace. Hepatitis B or C cannot be transmitted through close physical contact like hugging and kissing³

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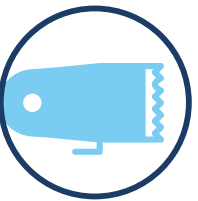
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WHAT DO I DO IF I'VE BEEN BITTEN OR SPAT ON?¹

- 1** INFORM YOUR SUPERVISOR OR MANAGER
- 2** YOU SHOULD BE RELEASED FROM DUTY TO BEGIN A RISK ASSESSMENT PROCESS
- 3** CLINICAL EVALUATION SHOULD INCLUDE THE POSSIBILITY THAT BOTH PEOPLE MAY HAVE BEEN EXPOSED TO HEP B AND/OR HEP C.

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There is currently no vaccine for hepatitis C.



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HOW LONG WILL I HAVE TO WAIT FOR TEST RESULTS?

You will have to wait 12 weeks² from the time of possible infection to receive an accurate result.



RISKS OF CONTRACTING HEPATITIS B AND C IF THE SOURCE IS POSITIVE.²

TYPE OF EXPOSURE	HEPATITIS B (if unvaccinated)	HEPATITIS C
Biting	Very low	Very low
Spitting	Very low	Zero
Blood and saliva to unbroken skin and skin-to-skin contact	Zero	Zero
Other transmission risks common in a Correctional Centre		
Blood contact with broken skin, mouth or eyes	Moderate	Low
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • fights/assaults: punch from a bleeding person causing a break in the skin of the other person • bloody saliva contact to mouth from giving mouth to mouth resuscitation if no protective equipment used • open wounds 		
Needlestick and other skin penetrating injury (non-occupational)	Very high	High
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • cut by a blade which recently cut another person • recently used injecting needle piercing skin 		
Tattooing/body piercing	Very high	High
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • sharing tattooing needles, ink • recently used unclean body piercing equipment 		
Sharing personal hygiene products when there is a transfer of blood	Very high	High
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • sharing toothbrushes • razors • tweezers • barbering equipment 		

References

1. Queensland Health, Management of occupational exposure to blood and body fluid, 2017.
2. ATAGI, Australian Immunisation Handbook, 2018.
3. ASHM, Correctional Officers and Blood-Borne Viruses, 2020.

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