

# TAKE ACTION NOW!

## Hepatitis Fast Facts



### HEPATITIS B

Hepatitis B is a virus that affects your liver.

- Affects **220,000** people in Australia
- Affects **35,000** people in Queensland
- Around **1 in 3** people living with hepatitis B don't know they have it
- Around **80%** of people with chronic hepatitis B (in Qld) are not getting regular check ups

#### HOW DO YOU GET IT?

It is spread through blood-to-blood contact and sexually, such as:

- To babies at birth, if the mother has hepatitis B
- Unprotected sexual contact
- Sharing injecting drug equipment, unsterile tattoos or piercings, or unsterile dental or medical procedures

#### SYMPTOMS

Many people don't feel sick, those that do experience:

- Tiredness
- Fever
- General aches and pains
- Nausea or loss of appetite
- Discomfort around the liver/stomach
- Jaundice (yellowing of the skin and eyes)

#### PREVENTION AND TREATMENT

Hepatitis B can be prevented with vaccination.

People living with chronic hepatitis B:

- Can live long, healthy lives by having regular check-ups every 6-12 months
- May need to take medicine (tablets) if the virus is damaging their liver
- Can talk to their doctor to find out if medicine is needed

### HEPATITIS C

Hepatitis C is a virus that affects your liver.

- Affects **69,000** people in Australia
- Affects **13,000** people in Queensland
- Around **1 in 10** people living with hepatitis C don't know they have it
- Around **33%** of people with hepatitis C (in Qld) are NOT getting curative treatment

#### HOW DO YOU GET IT?

It is spread through blood-to-blood contact, such as:

- Sharing injecting drug (including steroids) equipment
- Unsterile tattoos or piercings
- Unsterile dental or medical procedures
- Needle stick injuries

#### SYMPTOMS

Many people don't feel sick, those that do experience:

- Tiredness
- Fever
- General aches and pains
- Nausea or loss of appetite
- Discomfort around the liver/stomach
- Jaundice (yellowing of the skin and eyes)

#### PREVENTION AND TREATMENT

There is NO vaccination for hepatitis C but there is a simple cure. Most people can be cured by taking tablets daily for 8-12 weeks.

Hepatitis C treatments:

- Have a 95% success rate
- Have little to no side effects
- Are low cost for people with Medicare

Being cured does **NOT** stop you from getting hepatitis C again.



#### HOW TO GET TESTED

A blood test is needed to check for hepatitis B or C. A doctor (GP) or health clinic can provide a referral for a test. Hepatitis C can also be tested using a fingerstick test. These are available at some sexual health clinics, alcohol and other drugs services and needle and syringe programs (NSPs).

## MORE INFORMATION

Infoline: 1800 437 222 [www.defeathepatitis.au](http://www.defeathepatitis.au)

# TAKE ACTION NOW!

*Are you at risk of hepatitis?*



Have you ever had a blood transfusion overseas or before 1990 in Australia?

☐

YES

☐

NO

Have you ever had a medical or dental procedure outside of Australia?

☐

YES

☐

NO

Have you ever shared injecting equipment (like needles, syringes, spoons or filters) even just once or many years ago?

☐

YES

☐

NO

*This includes equipment used for injecting any substance, such as recreational drugs, steroids, or other performance and image-enhancing drugs (PIEDs).*

Have you ever had a tattoo or body piercing outside of a professional tattoo or body piercing studio?

☐

YES

☐

NO

*For example, prison, backyard or traditional ceremony.*

Have you ever shared personal items such as a razor or toothbrush?

☐

YES

☐

NO

Have you ever had a needle stick injury?

☐

YES

☐

NO

Have you ever had unprotected sex?

☐

YES

☐

NO

Do you come from a community where hepatitis B is more common?

☐

YES

☐

NO

*This includes South-East Asia, sub-Saharan Africa, the Pacific Islands and, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.*

## YOUR ANSWERS

If you answered YES to any of the questions in this risk factor quiz we encourage you to talk to your doctor or local clinic to get tested for hepatitis B and C.

You can find more information and support at [www.defeathepatitis.au](http://www.defeathepatitis.au) or phone the Hepatitis Infoline on **1800 437 222**.

