Hepatitis B virus (HBV) is transmitted from person to person through blood-to-blood contact, from an infected mother to her baby during birth, and through unprotected sexual contact. Risks for infection with HBV include those who have not been vaccinated; injection drug users; unprotected oral, anal, or vaginal sex; men who have sex with men; household contacts of those infected; hemodialysis patients; and those born in a country where HBV is common.

Some people are able to clear the infection on their own without medication. Others may develop a life-long (chronic) infection. If a chronic infection with HBV develops, it can lead to liver damage, cirrhosis, liver cancer, the need for a liver transplant, and death.

A vaccine is available to prevent infection with HBV.

Get vaccinated to protect against HBV. Get tested to know your status. To find out how to get no- or low-cost testing and vaccination, visit wwwknowyo.org.