



# PREVENTING PERINATAL HEPATITIS B

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Hepatitis B Foundation

*Texas Perinatal Hepatitis B Summit*

# Agenda

1. About the Hepatitis B Foundation
2. Perinatal Hepatitis B - why is it still important
3. Hepatitis B and Storytelling
4. Hepatitis B Screening & Vaccination Guidelines
5. How We are Combatting Perinatal Transmission
6. Resources for Implementation of the New Guidelines

# About the Hepatitis B Foundation

*The only national non-profit dedicated to finding a cure and improving the quality of life for those affected by hepatitis B worldwide*



## HBF

- Outreach & Education
- Public Health Research
- Policy & Advocacy
- Education & Training
- PA Biotechnology Center & Biotech Incubator

## BARUCH S. BLUMBERG RESEARCH INSTITUTE

- Biomedical Research - drug discovery & early detection methods for cirrhosis and HCC



## WHO sounds alarm on viral hepatitis infections claiming 3500 lives each day

9 April 2024 | News release | Geneva | Reading time: 4 min (970 words)

العربية

Espa

Mec

“The disease is the second leading infectious cause of death globally -- with **1.3 million deaths per year**, the same as tuberculosis, a top infectious killer.”


**“This report paints a troubling picture:  
despite progress globally in preventing  
hepatitis infections, deaths are rising  
because far too few people with  
hepatitis are being diagnosed and  
treated...”**

BETTER SCREENING AND  
SURVEILLANCE COULD HELP AVERT  
THE **800 TO 1,000 INFECTIONS PER  
YEAR** PASSED FROM MOTHER TO  
CHILD.

*National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, 2016.  
Eliminating the public health problem of hepatitis B and C in the  
United States: Phase one report.*



# #justB

- Aims to raise the profile of hepatitis B as an urgent public health priority and helps put a human face on this serious disease by sharing stories of real people living with or affected by hepatitis B.
  - The goals of the campaign are:
    - to increase awareness and advocacy; decrease stigma and discrimination;
    - Promote testing, vaccination, linkage to care, and treatment to help save lives.
- 

# Meet Alan

#justB Proactive





# Perinatal Hepatitis B – What's the Problem?

- Most commonly transmitted from an infected mother to her newborn during childbirth globally
- **Infants** exposed during childbirth have a **90% chance of developing a chronic hepatitis B infection**
- Among privately insured people, just 50% of people diagnosed with HBV receive appropriate care and treatment \*

# Perinatal Hepatitis B – Who is most impacted?

**People born abroad are 9 times more likely to be infected with chronic hepatitis B. However, country of birth is not routinely collected data.**

- Immigrant and Refugee Communities:
  - Asian
  - Pacific Islanders
  - African
  - Eastern European
- Unvaccinated pregnant people at high-risk for hepatitis B

# Perinatal Hepatitis B - Is it still an issue?

- Most new chronic infections are occurring in people of child-bearing age:
  - 30-39 years of age
  - 40-49 years of age

# Common Perinatal Questions

**CAN I BREASTFEED?**

**IF I HAVE CHRONIC HEPATITIS B INFECTION, CAN I HUG MY CHILDREN, PARTNER OR FRIEND?**

**IS HEPATITIS B GENETIC?**

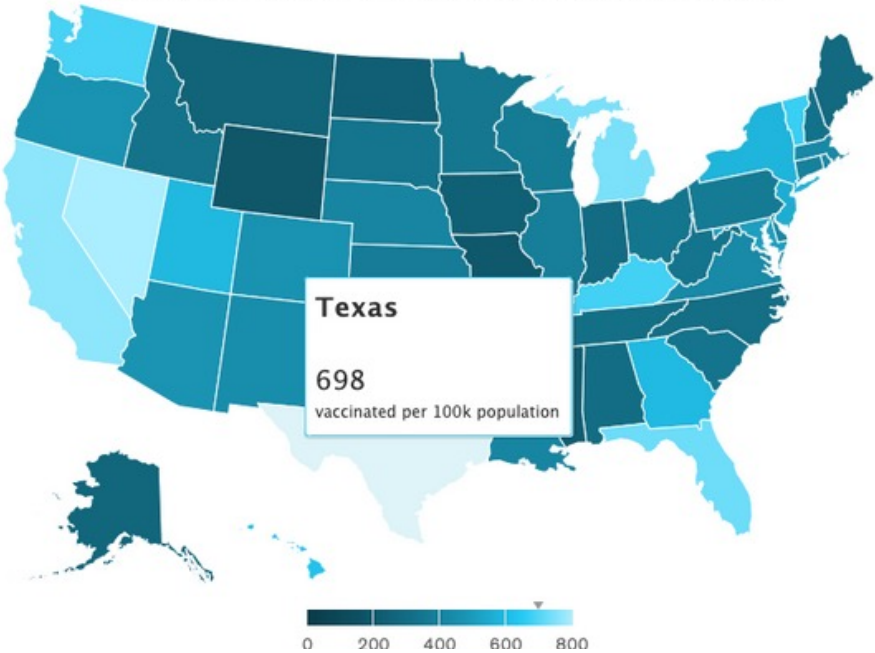
**WILL HERBALS, NATURAL “REMEDIES”, AYURVEDA OR TRADITIONAL CHINESE MEDICINE, SUPPLEMENTS, OR VITAMINS AND MINERALS CONTROL HEPATITIS B?**



# Adult Hepatitis B Immunization - Texas

## Vaccination per capita

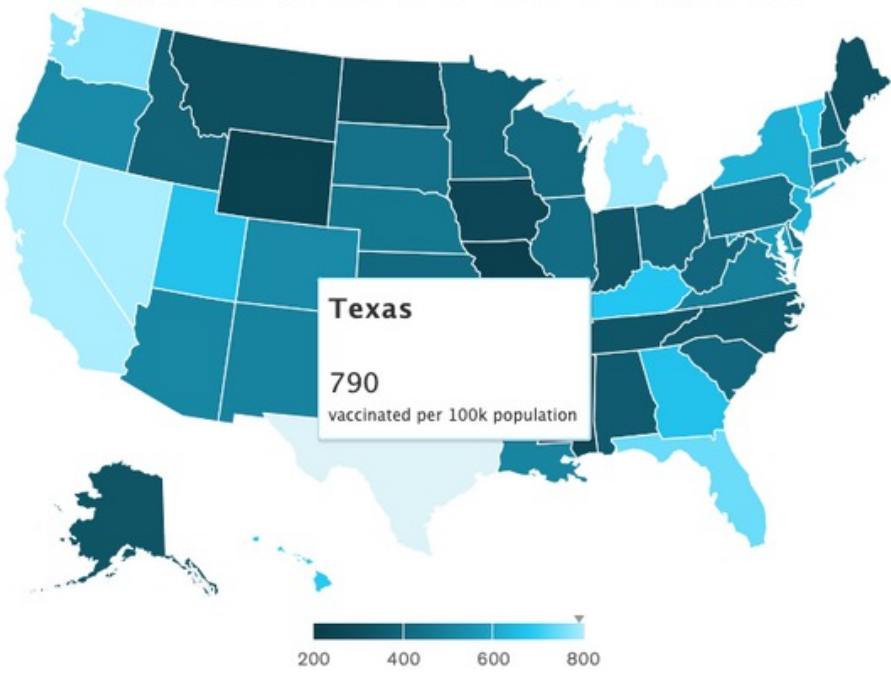
Rate of medical and pharmacy claims (per 100,000 members of the population) for vaccinations for the indicated disease.  
This data can help compare rates of vaccination in states with different population sizes.



All Genders

## Vaccination per capita

Rate of medical and pharmacy claims (per 100,000 members of the population) for vaccinations for the indicated disease.  
This data can help compare rates of vaccination in states with different population sizes.



Women

# A NATIONAL LOOK AT CHILDHOOD HEPATITIS B IMMUNIZATION



**74%**

of newborns have received  
the first dose of the  
hepatitis B vaccine within  
3 days of birth



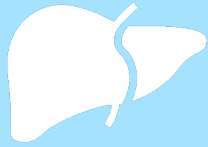
**91%**

of children 19-35 months  
have completed the  
hepatitis B vaccine



**UPDATED ADULT  
HEPATITIS B  
UNIVERSAL SCREENING  
AND VACCINATION  
RECOMMENDATIONS**

# Updated Hepatitis B Recommendations: Why now?



People living with chronic hepatitis B have a **15% to 25% risk of premature death from cirrhosis or liver cancer** without monitoring and antiviral treatment as indicated



Up to  
**2.4 Million  
Americans**

Are living with chronic hepatitis B



**67%**

Of people living with hepatitis B are unaware of their infection



**70%**

Of adults 19 and older have **NOT** completed the hepatitis B vaccine series



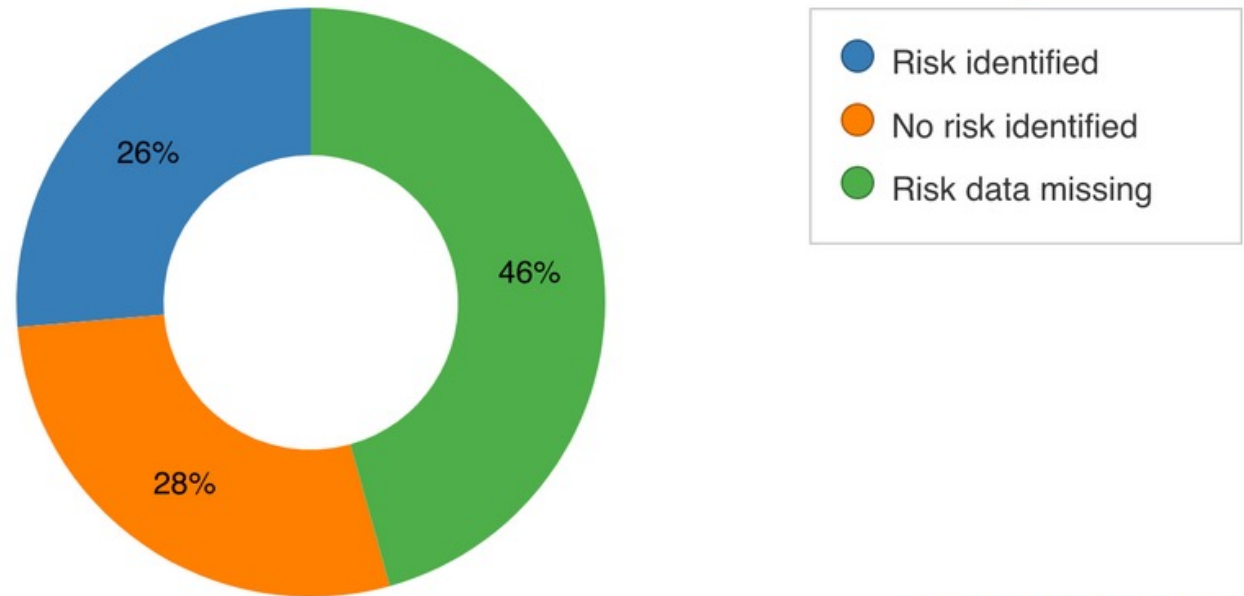
# Updated Hepatitis B Recommendations: Why now?

Availability of information on risk behaviors or exposures\* associated with reported cases† of acute hepatitis B — United States, 2022

[Print](#)

◀ Figure 2.6

Figure 2.8 ▶



# Who Should Be Vaccinated?

## ◆ Who should be vaccinated?



Adults < 60



Adults 60 years and older with risk factors\* for hepatitis B



Anyone who wants the vaccine

**Universal adult HepB vaccination through age 59 years removes the need for risk factor screening and disclosure.**

*\*Only use risk factor to assess when a patient is 60+ years old AND does not request the vaccine.*

# Universal Hepatitis B Screening Recommendation

01

**Universal, one-time hepatitis B screening for adults 18 & older**

Hepatitis B Surface Antigen  
Hepatitis B Surface Antibody  
Hepatitis B Core Antibody

02

**Periodic testing for all susceptible persons with ongoing risk**

New groups added to risk-based recommendation:

- current or history of STI
- currently or formerly incarcerated persons
- hepatitis C infection

03

**Anyone who requests a hepatitis B screening test**



# Screening Pregnant Persons for Hepatitis B

- All pregnant persons during each pregnancy, preferably in the first trimester, *regardless of vaccination status or history of testing*
- **NEW:** Pregnant persons with a history of appropriately timed triple panel screening and **WITHOUT** subsequent risk for exposure to hepatitis B (i.e., no new hepatitis B exposures since triple panel screening) *only need HBsAg screening*



# Hepatitis B Vaccination & Screening in General Practice\*

Collect Blood

Offer Vaccine per ACIP

No need to wait for test results

***Vaccination should not be a barrier to screening, and screening should not be a barrier to vaccination***

***Provide what service you are able, and refer patient to the one you cannot***

# Triple Panel Hepatitis B Screening - Results

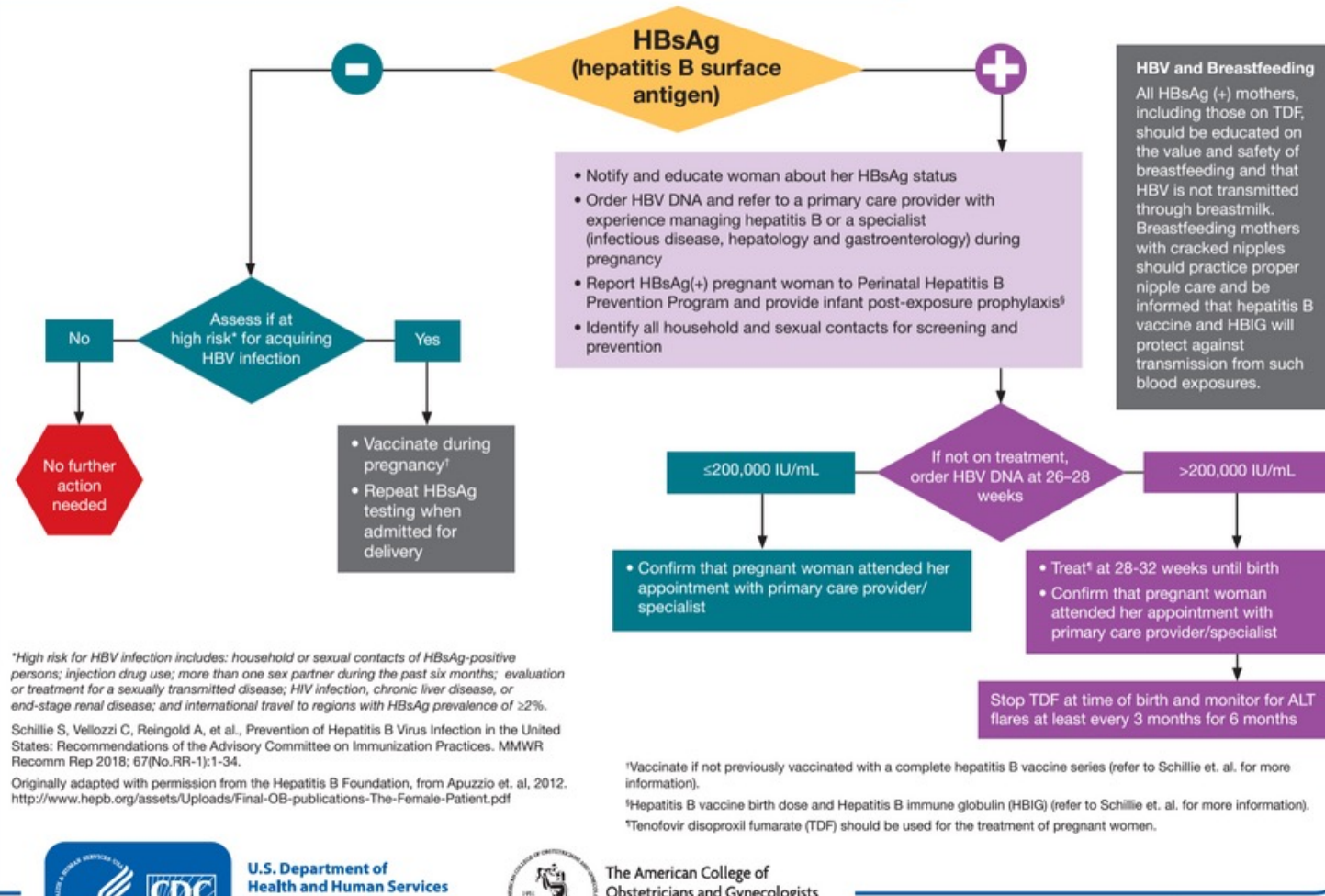
## Three-part Hepatitis B Panel

- **HBsAg** – positive test indicates current infection
- **HBsAb** – positive test indicates immunity
  - Can be vaccine-induced or from past exposure
- **HBcAb** – test of exposure
  - Also indication for re-activation risk

Interpreting Hepatitis B Blood Test Results

Interpretation & Action Needed	HBsAg Hepatitis B Surface Antigen	HBsAb (anti-HBs) Hepatitis B Surface Antibody	HBcAb (anti-HBc) Hepatitis B Core Antibody
<p><b>Not Immune - Not Protected</b></p> <p>Has not been infected, but still at risk for possible hep B infection.</p> <p><b>Vaccine is needed.</b></p>	—	—	—
<p><b>*Immune Controlled - Protected</b></p> <p>Surface antibodies present due to natural infection. Has recovered from a prior hep B infection. Cannot infect others.</p> <p><b>No vaccine is needed.</b></p>	—	+	+
<p><b>Immune - Protected</b></p> <p>Has been vaccinated. Does not have the virus and has never been infected.</p> <p><b>No vaccine is needed.</b></p>	—	+	—
<p><b>Infected</b></p> <p>Positive HBsAg indicates hep B virus is present. Virus can spread to others. Find a doctor who is knowledgeable about hep B for further evaluation.</p> <p><b>More Testing Needed.</b></p>	+	—	+

# Screening and Referral Algorithm for Hepatitis B Virus (HBV) Infection Among Pregnant Women



U.S. Department of  
Health and Human Services  
Centers for Disease  
Control and Prevention



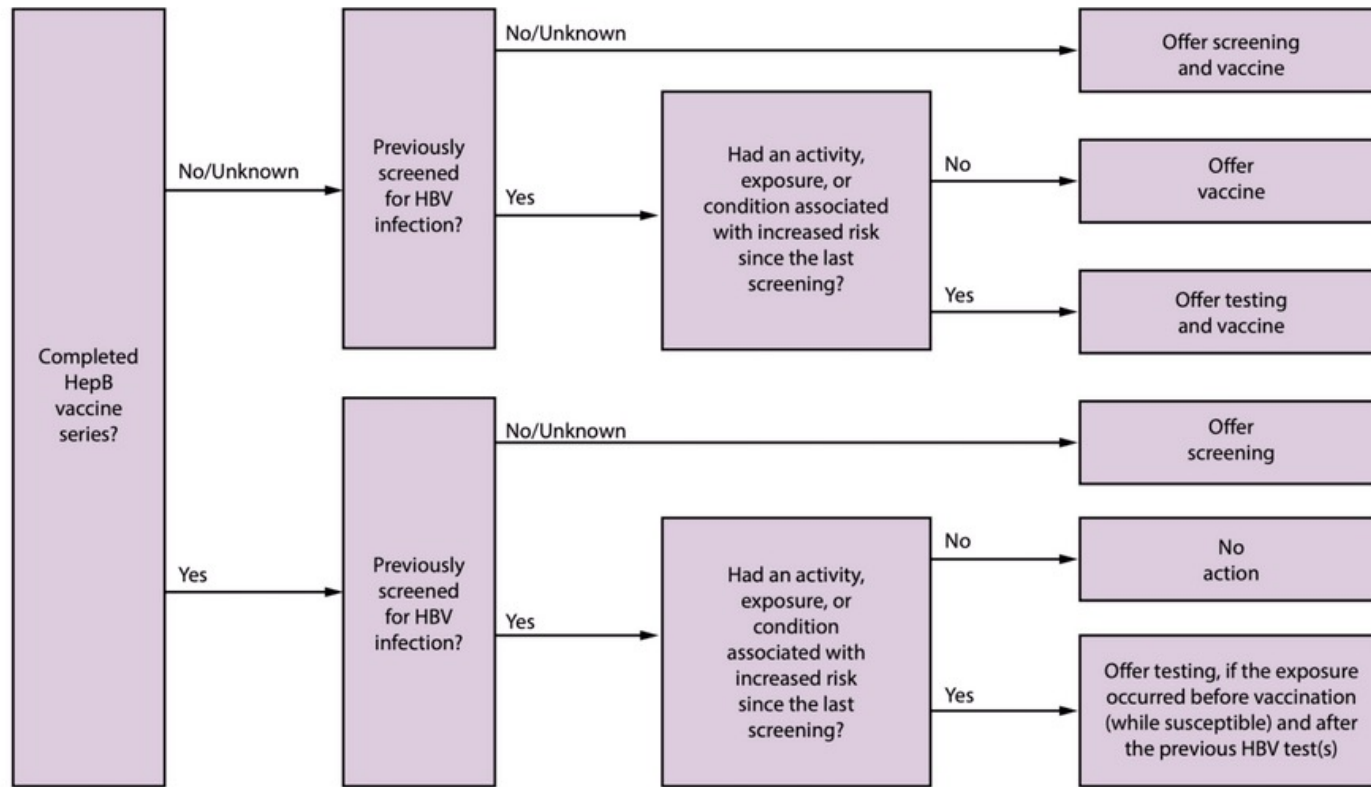
The American College of  
Obstetricians and Gynecologists  
WOMEN'S HEALTH CARE PHYSICIANS

[www.cdc.gov/hepatitis](http://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis)

Updated December 2021

# Adult Hepatitis B Vaccination & Screening in Practice: Clinical Workflow

## Nonpregnant Adults Aged ≥18 Years without a Known History of HBV Infection





# RESOURCES FOR PERINATAL HEPATITIS B PREVENTION

# Perinatal Resources

**VACCINATE YOUR BABY AGAINST HEPATITIS B**  
**IT COULD SAVE YOUR BABY'S LIFE.**

**WHAT IS HEPATITIS B?**

**HEPATITIS B** is a serious liver disease caused by the **HEPATITIS B VIRUS**.

**HEPATITIS B OFTEN DOESN'T CAUSE SYMPTOMS.** Many people can live with hepatitis B for years without feeling sick.

**1 IN 4 people living with hepatitis B can develop serious liver problems, INCLUDING LIVER CANCER.**

**DID YOU KNOW?**

- All pregnant women are routinely tested for hepatitis B.
- People who find out they have hepatitis B can take steps to keep their baby and family protected.
- The **HEPATITIS B VACCINE** is the 1st cancer prevention vaccine.

- [Hep B United Resource Repository](#)
- [Hep B Moms](#) - Public & Professional
- CHIPO - [African Resources for Community Health Workers](#)
- [Hep B Online](#) - University of Washington
- [CDC's Know Hepatitis B](#) - Public & Professional
  - African
  - Asian

# Clinician Resources for Updated Adult Recommendations

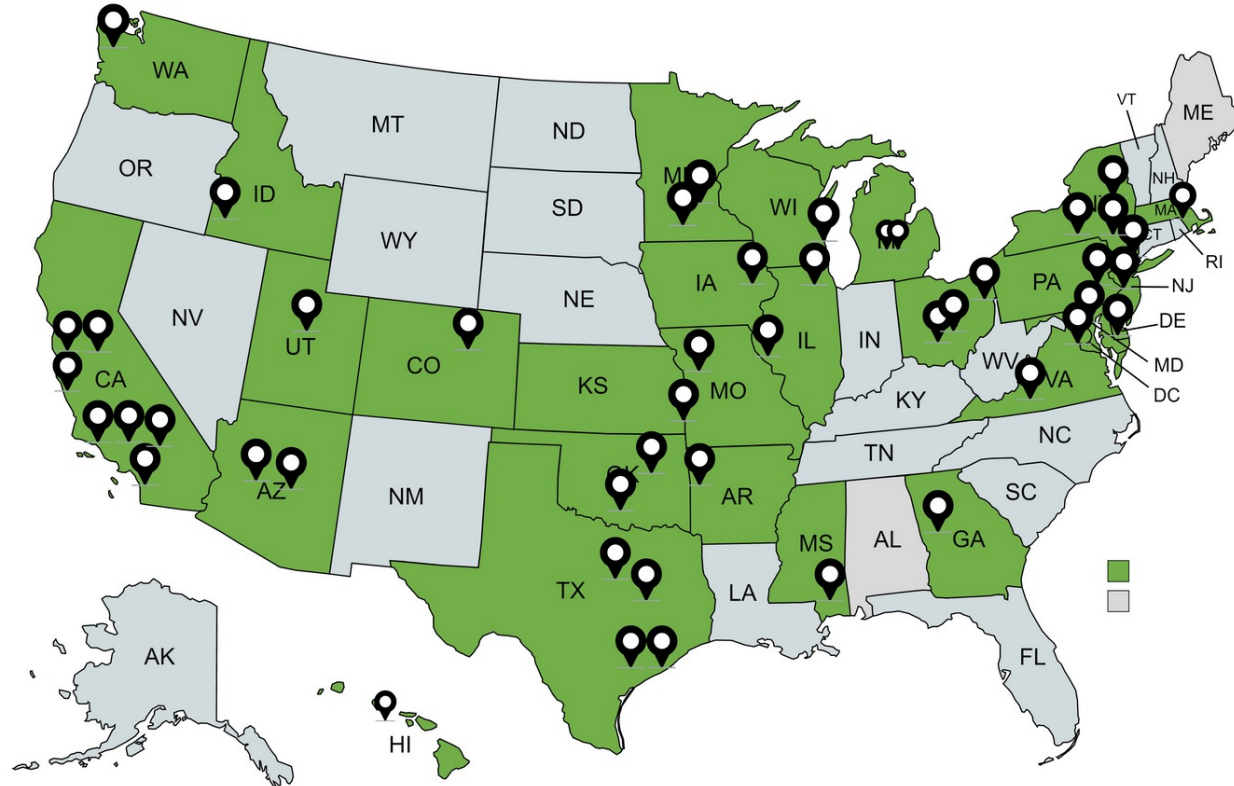
- [Call-to-Action: Eliminating Hepatitis B Virus Through Universal Screening and Vaccination for Adults Ages 19-59](#)
- [Implementing Hepatitis B Universal Adult Screening and Vaccination: Clinical Answers for Healthcare Professionals](#)
- [Hepatitis B Vaccination and Screening of Adults: Simple Steps to Protect Yourself from Serious Liver Disease](#)
- [CDC's Frequently Asked Questions for Health Professionals](#)
- Websites:
  - [www.hepb.org](http://www.hepb.org)
  - <https://www.hepatitisb.uw.edu/> (CME education)
  - [www.immunize.org](http://www.immunize.org)
  - <https://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/hbv/index.htm>

# Clinician Resources for Updated Adult Recommendations

# Additional Resources

# Hep B United: A National Coalition

## Hep B United



Hep B United Partners in  
26 states, DC and 36 cities

57 National and Local  
Coalition Members

**Mission** - Hep B United is a national coalition dedicated to reducing the health disparities associated with hepatitis B by increasing awareness, screening, vaccination, and linkage to care for high-risk communities across the United States.

# CONTACT US

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## **Social Media**

[@hepbfoundation](#)

[@hepbunited](#)



## **Website**

[www.hepb.org](http://www.hepb.org)

[www.hepbunited.org](http://www.hepbunited.org)