

## How do healthcare providers participate in the program?

- When a client tests positive to HBsAg at any time during her pregnancy, report this to the local health department of the client's residence.
- The local health department will provide the necessary information to begin follow-up efforts.
- Participation in the program is strictly confidential and will help protect future generations from this infectious virus.



Ohio Department of Health  
Perinatal Hepatitis B Prevention Program  
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# Ohio Perinatal Hepatitis B Prevention Program



Ohio Department of Health

## Why is Perinatal Hepatitis B Intervention Necessary?

- Without vaccination, there is a 40–90% chance that a baby born to a HBsAg-positive mother will become infected with hepatitis B.
- Most infections acquired at birth (90%) and early childhood (50–90%) result in chronic hepatitis B which can lead to liver cancer and cirrhosis of the liver later in life.
- If not infected at birth, the infant remains at risk for infection from the mother or another member of the household during early childhood.
- The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology (ACOG), American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) and the American Academy of Family Practice (AAFP) recommend that all pregnant females should be routinely tested for HBsAg during an early prenatal visit, in each pregnancy.

## What is the Perinatal Hepatitis B Prevention Program?

- The Ohio Department of Health's Perinatal Hepatitis B Prevention Program (PHBPP) provides technical assistance to local health departments and private medical providers as they identify and provide follow-up services to pregnant females who are HBsAg-Positive.
- Free Hepatitis B Vaccine (HBV) and Hepatitis B immune Globulin (HBIG) are provided to the newborns through birthing facilities to prevent the spread of the hepatitis B virus from mother to infant.
- Free HBV and HBIG are also provided to the household and sexual contacts of the positive female, when needed, through the local health department.
- Partner notification and client referrals are made by the local health departments and private medical providers to ensure the timely completion of the HBV series and post-vaccine serology.

## How can the Perinatal Hepatitis B Prevention Program Help?

- The PHBPP offers free hepatitis B testing and when needed, free vaccine to any person who lives in the household and to recent or steady sex partners of the HBsAg-positive female. Local health departments, with the assistance of the PHBPP consultant, provide these services to ensure that a ring of immunity is created around the infant.
- The local health department counsels and educates the HBsAg-positive female about hepatitis B. It also provides health education and counseling to household and sexual contacts.
- The program consultant and local health department inform all health care providers regarding the high-risk status of the female and her infant. This includes alerting the birthing facility of the status of the pregnant female.
- Tracking for infants and contacts is important to stop transmission of hepatitis B virus, a reportable disease.