

# HEPATITIS B



## The data

Thanks to vaccination, the Americas has the **LOWEST** estimated hepatitis B infection rate in children under 5 years of age **IN THE WORLD**.



## The disease

Hepatitis B can be acute (short-term) or chronic (long term), and can cause serious complications such as liver scarring.



## Transmission

- > From mother to child during childbirth
- > Through contact with:
  - > Blood or other infected bodily fluids (saliva, semen and flujo vaginal and menstrual).
  - > Syringes or other instruments infected objects.



## Symptoms

Most people have no symptoms. Some people present acute cases with symptoms lasting several weeks:

- > Yellowing of the skin and eyes (jaundice).
- > Dark urine Extreme fatigue.
- > Nausea, vomiting, and abdominal pain.
- > Acute hepatitis can cause acute liver failure, which is life-threatening.
- > Long-term complications include chronic infection, cirrhosis and hepatocellular carcinomas.



## Vaccines

- > The hepatitis B vaccine is **EFFECTIVE**, **SAFE** and offers **98-100% PROTECTION** against the disease and its more serious complications.
- > Hepatitis B vaccination of infants and children helps **PREVENT** mother-to-child transmission, creates **COMMUNITY IMMUNITY** and moves the region toward **ELIMINATION** of the disease.

Hepatitis vaccines include:

- > Pediatric and adult
- > Pentavalent  
(Against diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, and Hib or Polio)
- > Hexavalent  
(Against diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, Hib, and Polio)



## Calendar

**1ST DOSE** preferably at birth in the **FIRST 24 HOURS OF LIFE**.  
**3 ADDITIONAL DOSES** IN THE **FIRST YEAR OF LIFE**.

Persons who have not been vaccinated or persons:

- > Who frequently require blood or blood products, dialysis patients and solid organ transplant recipients;
- > Prisoners who inject drugs;
- > Who are household and sexual contacts of persons with chronic HBV infection;
- > With multiple sexual partners;
- > Who are health care workers and other professions that may be exposed to blood and blood products through their work;
- > Who are travelers who have not completed their HBV series; and
- > Pregnant women who have not been vaccinated.