

Hepatitis B Vaccine Information

What you need to know!

The following is quoted from the CDC (Center for Disease Control) web site:

“Information for Public/Health Professionals:

Hepatitis B is a liver disease caused by the hepatitis B virus (HBV). It ranges in severity from a mild illness, lasting a few weeks (acute), to a serious long-term (chronic) illness that can lead to liver disease or liver cancer.

Transmission: Contact with infectious blood, semen, and other body fluids from having sex with an infected person, sharing contaminated needles to inject drugs, or from an infected mother to her newborn.

Vaccination: Hepatitis B vaccination is recommended for all infants, older children and adolescents who were not vaccinated previously, and adults at risk for HBV infection.”

Added note from NAU CSD Department: Hepatitis B can be contracted from bodily fluids including blood, saliva, etc. It can be transmitted very easily by a single skin prick with infected blood.

Many health care agencies require their health care professional employees to have the Hepatitis B series vaccination. **Not having the vaccination series may postpone your externship and/or employment.**

Some of the early concerns about Hepatitis B vaccine have now been erased. We are currently into a third generation of Hepatitis B vaccine which seems safe and is heartily endorsed by all major national infectious disease groups.

Fronsk Health Center at Northern Arizona University recommends and offers Hepatitis B series vaccine to all students.

Hepatitis B vaccine side-effects

What are the risks from hepatitis B vaccine? (from CDC web site)

“A vaccine, like any medicine, is capable of causing serious problems, such as severe allergic reactions. The risk of hepatitis B vaccine causing serious harm, or death, is extremely small.

Getting hepatitis B vaccine is much safer than getting hepatitis B disease.

Most people who get hepatitis B vaccine do not have any problems with it.

Mild problems

- soreness where the shot was given, lasting a day or two (up to 1 out of 11 children and adolescents, and about 1 out of 4 adults)
- mild to moderate fever (up to 1 out of 14 children and adolescents and 1 out of 100 adults)

Severe problems

- serious allergic reaction (very rare)”

Northern Arizona University

College of Health Professions
Communication Sciences and Disorders Department
Graduate Program

Hepatitis B Waiver Form

All Hepatitis B waived students must sign this document indicating:

1. I have received information provided by the NAU Communication Sciences and Disorders Department regarding Hepatitis B (Please read all information on previous page).
2. I understand the risks and benefits of immunizations, the potential risks of non-immunization, and the risk of Hepatitis B (Please read all CDC information on previous page).
3. I understand that if I contract Hepatitis B while taking my NAU CSD course work, I am responsible for work missed and that it may delay my graduation.
4. I understand that the Hepatitis B series may be required at my externship site and not having the series could delay or limit my externship options.
5. I do not wish to receive Hepatitis B vaccine at this time.

Louie I.D. Number

Student Signature

Date