



PUBLIC HEALTH FACT SHEET

HEPATITIS B

Dear Parent:

This is to bring to your attention that a case of Hepatitis B has been reported for a student in your child's classroom and to provide you with information about this disease. If your child exhibits any of the symptoms described, it is recommended that you consult your healthcare provider or the Department of Health in Duval County Epidemiology Program at 904-253-1850.

What is Hepatitis B?

- A viral infection that causes liver inflammation
- A vaccine preventable illness

What are the symptoms of Hepatitis B?

- Flu-like illness, i.e. muscle aches, nausea, vomiting, fever
- Jaundice (yellowing of the skin or the whites of the eyes)
- Loss of appetite
- Joint pains
- Tiredness, fatigue

How is Hepatitis B infection spread?

- Sexual contact
- Babies born to infected mothers may be infected during birth
- Through blood or blood products
- Hepatitis B virus can remain contagious on surfaces for 7 days or more
- Sharing needles or "works" when "shooting" drugs
- Through occupational needle-sticks or sharps exposure

How can Hepatitis B infection be prevented?

- There is a vaccine available to prevent Hepatitis B
- Do not share personal care items such as razors, toothbrushes, or drug paraphernalia
- Use gloves when handling blood or body fluids
- Clean blood contaminated surfaces with the recommended disinfectants
- Consult with your health care provider about your risk for Hepatitis B and testing

Implications for school

- Excludes student or staff
- Must have a healthcare provider's note to return

Resources:

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention:
www.cdc.gov

American Academy of Pediatrics:
<https://healthychildren.org/English/health-issues/conditions/abdominal/Pages/FoodPoisoning-and-Food-Contamination.aspx>