

Hepatitis B Non-Immune Information Sheet

This information sheet is for learners who have not yet demonstrated lab immunity to Hepatitis B due to:

- still being in the process of completing a documented hepatitis B immunization series including booster doses (if indicated); OR
- having received two complete documented hepatitis B immunization series and post immunization serology has not demonstrated immunity; OR
- being unable to receive Hepatitis B vaccines and have been granted a medical exemption.

Hepatitis B virus is spread through contact with infected blood and body fluids and is far more infectious than HIV. The risk of infection in the clinical setting can be greatly reduced by putting in place proper [infection control practices](#).

Students without proof of immunity are considered susceptible to infection and may require passive immunization with immune globulin in the event of a possible exposure (e.g., a percutaneous injury, human bite, or mucosal splash); students should report an incident immediately as the efficacy of immune globulin decreases significantly 48 hours after exposure.

In the event of an incident students should

- report the injury to their clinical supervisor **immediately** and follow placement site protocols; AND
- complete a [FHS Injury/Incident Report](#) within 24 hours of the incident and submit to their program manager and the FHS Safety Office (refer to: <https://fhs.mcmaster.ca/healthscreening/reportit/>)

For more information:

[Hepatitis B vaccines: Canadian Immunization Guide](#)