

WHAT IS

HEPATITIS B

Hepatitis B is a disease of the liver caused by a virus (HBV). If left untreated, it can lead to serious health problems, such as liver cancer or liver disease. **It is very common in Africa and Asia.**

Getting tested for hepatitis B is the only way to know if you have hepatitis B.

There is highly effective treatment for hepatitis B which allows you to **prevent liver disease** and live a normal life. This treatment can only be prescribed by a specialist doctor. However, **not every person that has hepatitis B requires treatment.**

Therefore, your specialist will evaluate your case to determine if the treatment is necessary or not.

Most people who have hepatitis B do not know they are infected.

This is because they are asymptomatic and consequently, they have not been tested accordingly. These people can transmit the infection to other people, such as family or friends.

A safe and effective vaccine exists to prevent hepatitis B infection.

It is usually given at birth or as a child. If you are unsure of whether you have received it, a blood test can be performed to confirm it.

If you have a question about hepatitis B you can contact the VH-COMSAVAC team by e-mail at: info@saludentreculturas.es

WHEN TO GET TESTED

YOU SHOULD GET TESTED FOR HEPATITIS B IF YOU HAVE ANY DOUBT ABOUT YOUR HBV STATUS, ESPECIALLY:



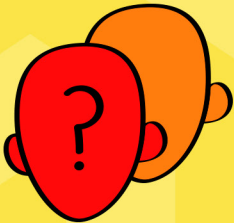
If you have recently travelled to a high prevalence country, such as your home country, and you are not vaccinated.



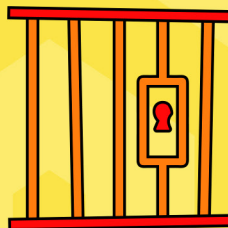
If you have a family member who has hepatitis B.



If you have ever received surgery.



If you have engaged in high-risk sex practices or unprotected sex.



If you have ever been incarcerated.

HIV

If you have an HIV diagnosis.

WHERE TO GET TESTED

GETTING TESTED FOR HEPATITIS B INFECTION REQUIRES A BLOOD SAMPLE TO TEST FOR THE PRESENCE OF THE VIRUS IN THE BLOOD AND CAN BE DONE AT YOUR PRIMARY HEALTHCARE CENTRE.

Ask your local community organization if they can help locate a place for you to get tested.

Local organizations and NGOs oftentimes offer free hepatitis B testing at their centres and some organizations can travel to your community centre to test you.

HEPATITIS B TESTING RESULTS ARE ALWAYS KEPT CONFIDENTIAL.

