



National Institute for Public Health
and the Environment
Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport

Hepatitis B

Blood tests after vaccination

Information for parents/guardians

The doctor at the health clinic will refer your child to your general practitioner. In the referral letter, the GP will be asked to have your child's blood tested for hepatitis B.

What should I do?

One month after your child's last hepatitis B vaccination, you can make an appointment with your GP. Take the referral letter with you. The general practitioner will have some blood tested in the laboratory. This will take around one week. The general practitioner will inform you of the results and will also pass the results on to the health clinic.

Why does my child need blood tests?

During pregnancy, the mother was found to have hepatitis B. Hepatitis B is a severe form of liver inflammation. The inflammation can become chronic and remain contagious. If a mother is contagious, her child is at risk of also getting hepatitis B. For example, this may occur during pregnancy or during childbirth. The blood tests will show whether the vaccinations your child has been given are protecting the child properly against hepatitis B.

Why only visit the GP after a month?

Your child's immune system needs time to build up sufficient protection. The blood test will provide reliable information 4-6 weeks after the last hepatitis B vaccination.

Could my child have a hepatitis B infection?

Did your child have antibodies and get a vaccination against hepatitis B just after birth? And then all the hepatitis B vaccinations? If so, your child's chances of having a hepatitis B infection are very small.

What happens if my child is not yet adequately protected?

If the blood test shows that your child is not yet adequately protected, the general practitioner will inform the health clinic. They will make sure you receive an invitation for additional vaccinations by post.

If you have any questions, ask the doctor at the health clinic or your GP.

Published by

**National Institute for Public Health
and the Environment**

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The Netherlands
www.rivm.nl/en

Juni 2022

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