

Testing for Hepatitis B in Alaska

Why Get Tested?

- Worldwide, 2 billion people have been exposed to hepatitis B. An estimated 1 million people die every year from causes related to hepatitis B, including approximately 5,000 people in the United States.
- It may take 20 to 30 years for people with chronic hepatitis B to begin to experience symptoms, and most people who have chronic hepatitis B are unaware of their infection.
- Individuals may still transmit hepatitis B to others even if they do not feel any symptoms.
- When left untreated, chronic hepatitis B may lead to life-threatening conditions such as liver failure and liver cancer. Fortunately, hepatitis B can be treated. [For more information, see the Alaska Viral Hepatitis Resource Guide.](#)

Populations Recommended or Required for Routine Hepatitis B Testing

- The following list details some of the highest risk populations for hepatitis B. [For more complete information, see the CDC's 2008 MMWR article "Recommendations for Identification and Public Health Management of Persons with Chronic Hepatitis B Virus Infection."](#)
- Hepatitis B testing is recommended for the following populations:
 - People born in regions with moderate or high hepatitis B rates, especially in Asia and Africa. [Click here for a map of these regions.](#)
 - Unvaccinated persons born in the U.S. to parents from regions with moderate or high hepatitis B rates. [Click here for a map of these regions.](#)
 - All pregnant women
 - All infants born to mothers with hepatitis B
 - Men who have had sex with men
 - People who have used injection drugs
 - People needing chemotherapy and other immunosuppressant therapy
 - People with persistently abnormal alanine aminotransferase (ALT) levels
 - People who are or were hemodialysis patients

Testing Sites

- Anchorage:
 - Anchorage Neighborhood Health Center
 - To schedule an appointment, call (907) 743-7200.
 - [For more information, see the Anchorage Neighborhood Health Center's website.](#)
 - Municipality of Anchorage Reproductive Health Clinic
 - To schedule an appointment, call (907) 343-4623.
 - Be sure to call at least 24 hours ahead of your desired appointment time.
 - [For more information, see the Muni Reproductive Health Clinic's website.](#)
- Fairbanks: Interior Community Health Center
 - To schedule an appointment, call (907) 452-1776.
 - [For more information, see the Interior Community Health Center's website.](#)
- Other Locations
 - Many towns have Public Health Centers that provide hepatitis B tests. [Click here for a list of Public Health Centers in Alaska.](#)
 - Other towns and villages have health care sites that offer hepatitis B tests. [Click here for a directory of health care sites in Alaska.](#)
 - Alaska Health Fairs offer hepatitis B testing as well as many other health screening services. They travel around the state from early spring to autumn. [Click here to view the schedule.](#)