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.