

Hepatitis B Virus Infection – High Endemic Geographic Areas

Revision Date: January 26, 2018

Children younger than seven years of age whose families have immigrated to Canada from areas where there is a high prevalence (8% or higher) of hepatitis B are at increased risk of hepatitis B infections even if neither parent is a chronic carrier. These children are likely to be exposed to hepatitis B carriers through their extended families or when visiting friends and relatives in their country of origin and should be offered hepatitis B vaccine. Immunization can start with the routine vaccination schedule at two months of age, with the next doses to complete the series given at four and 12 months of age. Hepatitis B vaccine series can be started at any age (two months up to seven years of age) for children identified who meet these eligibility criteria.

Countries considered highly endemic (8% or higher HBsAg prevalence) for hepatitis B infection are listed by geographical areas below:

Africa (all countries except Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Morocco and Tunisia)

African countries with high hepatitis B endemicity

Angola	Gabon	Rwanda
Benin	Gambia	Saint Helena
Botswana	Ghana	Sao Tome and Principe
Burkina Faso	Guinea	Senegal
Burundi	Guinea-Bissau	Seychelles
Cameroon	Kenya	Sierra Leone
Cape Verde Islands	Lesotho	Somalia
Central African Republic	Liberia	South Africa
Chad	Madagascar	South Sudan
Comoros	Malawi	Sudan
Congo	Mali	Swaziland
Côte d'Ivoire	Mauritania	Togo
Democratic Republic of the Congo	Mauritius	Uganda
Djibouti	Mozambique	United Republic of Tanzania
Equatorial Guinea	Namibia	Western Sahara
Eritrea	Niger	Zambia
Ethiopia	Nigeria	Zimbabwe
	Reunion Island	

Central and Eastern Europe (including the independent states of the former Soviet Union) and the Middle East

Central and Eastern European and Middle Eastern countries with high hepatitis B endemicity

Albania	Georgia	Republic of Moldova
Armenia	Jordan	Saudi Arabia
Azerbaijan	Kazakhstan	Tajikistan
Bulgaria	Kyrgyzstan	Turkmenistan
Denmark – Greenland (indigenous populations)	Malta	Uzbekistan

Central and South America (interior Amazon basin and parts of the Caribbean) Central and South American countries with high hepatitis B endemicity

Bolivia (Amazon Basin)	Dominican Republic	Peru
Brazil (Amazon Basin)	Haiti	Venezuela (Amazon Basin)
Columbia (Amazon Basin)		

North America

High hepatitis B endemicity occurs in the Alaska Native populations and indigenous populations in Northern Canada.

Southeast Asia and the South and Western Pacific Islands Southeast Asian and Western Pacific countries with high hepatitis B endemicity

America Samoa	Lao People's Democratic Republic	Taiwan
Cambodia	Marshall Islands	Thailand
China (includes Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan)	Macao	Timor-Leste
Cook Islands	Mongolia	Tokelau
Easter Island	Myanmar (Burma)	Tonga
Federated States of Micronesia	Nauru	Trust Territories of Pacific Islands
Fiji	New Caledonia and Dependencies	Tuvalu
French Polynesia	Niue	Vanuatu
Guam	Palau	Vietnam
Hong Kong	Papua New Guinea	Wallis and Futuna Islands
Indonesia	Philippines	
Kiribati	Samoa	
Korea (North and South)	Solomon Islands	

References

- ¹ National Advisory Committee on Immunization. (2017). Canadian Immunization Guide (Evergreen ed). Ottawa, ON: Public Health Agency of Canada. www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/canadian-immunization-guide.html
- ² World Health Organization (2012). *Hepatitis B, Disease distribution map*. Retrieved August 25, 2017 from: http://gamapserver.who.int/mapLibrary/Files/Maps/Global_HepB_ITHRiskMap.png?ua=1.
- ³ Schweitzer, A., Horn, J., Mikolajczyk, R., Krause, G., & Ott, J. (2015). Estimations of worldwide prevalence of chronic hepatitis B virus infection: a systematic review of data published between 1965 and 2013. *The Lancet* 386(1546-55). Retrieved August 25, 2017 from: [http://www.thelancet.com/pdfs/journals/lancet/PIIS0140-6736\(15\)61412-X.pdf](http://www.thelancet.com/pdfs/journals/lancet/PIIS0140-6736(15)61412-X.pdf)
- ⁴ Gish, R. G., & Gadano, A. C. (2006). Chronic hepatitis B: Current epidemiology in the Americas and implication for management. *Journal of Viral Hepatitis*, 13(12).
- ⁵ American Academy of Pediatrics. (2015). *Red book: 2015 Report of the Committee on Infectious Diseases* (30th ed.). Elk Grove Village, IL: Author.