

NEW MEXICO HEALTH ALERT NETWORK (HAN) ALERT
NMDOH Issues Guidance for Newborn Hepatitis B Vaccination

12/09/2025

Background:

On December 5, the Advisory Committee for Immunization Practices (ACIP) voted to change the universal recommendation for a hepatitis B vaccine birth dose. The recommendation for a universal hepatitis B birth dose has been in place in the United States since 1991. The New Mexico Department of Health (NMDOH) continues to recommend the universal birth dose of hepatitis B vaccine in New Mexico. This recommendation is based on a review of guidance released by the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), other medical professional organizations and the [Vaccine Integrity Project Evidence Review](#).

Since the 1991 universal birth dose recommendation, annual hepatitis B infections among infants and children have dropped 99%, from approximately 16,000 infections in infants and young children in the early 1990s to now fewer than 20 reported perinatal infections per year (Vaccine Integrity Project). The ACIP did not present any new data on hepatitis B vaccine efficacy or safety to support a change to this recommendation.

Recommendations for Clinicians:

- All newborns should receive a hepatitis B vaccine dose within 24 hours of birth consistent with [AAP recommendations on timing and dosage](#).
- Newborns born to a birthing parent who tests positive for hepatitis B infection should be vaccinated and given hepatitis B immunoglobulin within 12 hours of birth, regardless of birth weight.
- All newborns born to a HBsAg positive birthing parent should be reported to the NMDOH Perinatal Hepatitis B Prevention Program (PHBPP) within 24 hours of birth. The [Perinatal Hepatitis B Birth Report](#) form can be faxed to (505) 827-1741.
- All children should complete the full vaccination series within 18 months.
- Children who are not fully vaccinated by 18 months should follow the [AAP's age-appropriate catch-up schedule](#).
- Completing the full vaccination series is the most reliable and effective way to provide long-term protection. Serologic testing should not be used to determine immunity following an incomplete hepatitis B vaccine series. There is no established correlation between serologic test results and protection from disease following an incomplete hepatitis B vaccination series.

- ACIP voted to change the CDC recommended immunization schedule for hepatitis B vaccine to reflect the first dose at 2 months for most infants; however, NMDOH recommends that providers in NM continue to follow the [AAP vaccine schedule](#).

Vaccine Access:

Hepatitis B vaccines, including the birth dose, will continue to be covered by the Vaccines for Children (VFC) program and health care insurers regulated by the State of New Mexico. Vaccines recommended with “shared clinical decision making” by ACIP are covered by all insurance plans including Medicaid and Medicare. As a universal vaccine purchase state, there is no cost to families for children's vaccines ages 18 years and younger. To locate the nearest VFC provider in New Mexico, call the NMDOH Helpline at 1-833-SWNURSE (1-833-796-8773), text NMDOH (66364), or visit [Vaccines for Children](#).

Additional Resources:

- [American Academy of Pediatrics](#)
- [American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases](#)
- [Vaccine Integrity Project](#)

New Mexico Health Alert Network: To register for the NM Health Alert Network, please visit the following site <https://nm.readyop.com/fs/4cjZ/10b2> Please fill out the registration form completely and click Submit at the bottom of the page, to begin receiving Important health alerts, advisories, and updates.

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