

Hepatitis B Virus Infection – High Endemic Geographic Areas

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)

Angola	Gabon	Rwanda
Benin	Gambia	Saint Helena
Botswana	Ghana	SaoTome 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	Sudan
Comoros	Malawi	Swaziland
Congo	Mali	Togo
Côte d'Ivoire	Mauritania	Uganda
Democratic Republic of the Congo	Mauritius	United Republic of Tanzania
Djibouti	Mozambique	Western Sahara
Equatorial Guinea	Namibia	Zambia
Eritrea	Niger	Zimbabwe
Ethiopia	Nigeria	
	Reunion Island	

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

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

Central and South America (interior Amazon basin and parts of the Caribbean)

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

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

Source:

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