

## **Engerix®-B and Recombivax HB® Vaccine Information Sheet**

**(Hepatitis B vaccine)**

**Engerix®-B and Recombivax HB® are vaccines that protect against hepatitis B**

- Grade 7 students are immunized with two doses of vaccine
- All other people are immunized with three doses of vaccine
- Both the 2-dose and 3-dose schedule provide full protection
- The vaccine is given as an injection in the upper arm
- Both vaccines work equally well

**Mild side effects may occur, such as:**

- Redness, swelling or discomfort at the injection site
- Headache, irritability, fatigue, malaise, anorexia

Severe side effects are rare.

**People should delay or avoid this immunization if they:**

- Have ever had a severe reaction to a vaccine. It is best to speak to a health care provider when there are complicated health concerns or previous severe reactions to vaccines
- Have an allergy to latex or yeast

## **Hepatitis B**

- Affects the liver and can cause permanent liver damage, cancer and death
- Most people recover from hepatitis B, but about 10 per cent of infected people will become carriers of the virus for life, and they can continue to infect others
- About half of the people who become infected with hepatitis B do not develop symptoms
- Others will experience acute illness, fatigue, fever, loss of appetite or jaundice (yellow skin and eyes)
- The virus spreads from person to person by infected blood or body fluids, through sexual contact, sharing needles, body piercing or tattooing equipment
- Can also be passed by an infected mother to her child at birth



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**Community and Health Services**

Public Health

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