

**Health Advisory: Preventing Perinatal Hepatitis B**  
**August 13, 2024****Situational Update**

Reporting pregnancy status and estimated date of delivery of persons with a positive hepatitis B (+HBsAg) result is required by California Code<sup>1</sup> and Title 17 and is critical for timely postexposure prophylaxis (PEP) for infants born to hepatitis B-infected pregnant persons<sup>2</sup>.

**Actions Requested of Healthcare Systems and Clinicians**

1. **Test** pregnant patients for hepatitis B surface antigen (HBsAg).
  - a. **Re-test** HBsAg-negative patient before delivery if they have clinical hepatitis or were at risk of exposure during pregnancy.
  - b. **Test** all HBsAg-positive pregnant persons for HBV DNA (viral load)
2. **Report** pregnancy status and estimated date of delivery of persons +HBsAg to Sacramento County Public Health.
  - a. Submit a [Confidential Morbidity Report<sup>2</sup>](#) (CMR) via the CalREDIE Provider Portal.
  - b. **Remind** appropriate health care personnel of the importance of reporting.
3. **Vaccinate** pregnant persons at risk for hepatitis B infection if they are HBsAg- and are not immune.
4. **Inform** +HBsAg pregnant patients of the importance of postexposure prophylaxis and postvaccination serologic testing for their infants. Breastfeeding is safe after the infant receives HBIG and the hepatitis B vaccine within 12 hours of birth.

**Resources**

<sup>1</sup> CCR Section 125085 and Title 17 Section 2500[b].

<sup>2</sup> "Preventing Perinatal Hepatitis B" – California Department of Public Health.

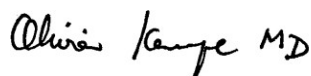
<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/CDPH%20Document%20Library/Immunization/PerinatalHepB-OBQuicksheet.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> "Confidential Morbidity Report (CMR) forms" – Sacramento County Public Health.

<https://dhs.saccounty.gov/PUB/Pages/Confidential-Morbidity-Report-Forms.aspx>

Sincerely,

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Public Health Officer