

Infectious Disease Screening and Vaccination: What You Need to Know

January 2019 | hepatitis.va.gov | hiv.va.gov

Infectious disease screening and vaccinations: What you need to know.

This handout provides an overview of the key things you need to know to make an informed decision about screening for the infectious diseases hepatitis A (HAV), hepatitis B (HBV), hepatitis C (HCV), human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), human papillomavirus (HPV), syphilis, gonorrhea, and chlamydia, and vaccination against HAV, HBV, and HPV, if indicated. Though your provider may recommend screening or vaccination, the decision to be tested or vaccinated is up to you. Your provider will explain benefits, risks, and alternatives, and you will be asked to provide your consent for screening or vaccination or any recommended treatments resulting from positive tests. Your provider can answer any additional questions you have about screening and vaccination during the informed consent conversation.

If your test results are positive for any of these infectious diseases, it will be important for you to work with your provider to get follow-up care. In some cases, your provider (VA or non-VA) is required to share information about positive results with state public health authorities. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) maintains a list of around 120 notifiable diseases and requests that states report voluntarily. For more information, please visit the CDC website or ask your health care provider about notification requirements in your state.

If your test results are negative, talk to your provider about prevention. Vaccinations are available to prevent HAV, HBV, and HPV. In addition, there are preventative measures you can take for each of these infections. For example, using condoms and clean drug equipment can prevent infections that are transmitted sexually or via blood. Washing your hands with soap and water after you use the bathroom, properly cleaning surfaces on the toilet or in the bathroom and avoiding contaminated food/water can help prevent HAV infection.



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Infectious Disease	Screening Method	If the test is positive...	If the test is negative...
Hepatitis A (HAV)	Blood test	A positive test can suggest past vaccination or infection. If you have symptoms of current HAV infection, your provider will monitor you and provide care as needed. Most people recover without treatment by getting a lot of rest and drinking plenty of fluids.	Your provider may recommend vaccination if you are at risk for HAV.
Hepatitis B (HBV)	Blood test	A positive test can suggest past vaccination or infection. With your consent, follow-up testing may be done to confirm whether you currently are infected. If positive, your provider may recommend treatment.	Your provider may recommend vaccination.
Hepatitis C (HCV)	Blood test	With your consent, follow-up testing will be done to confirm the results. If positive, your provider will recommend you start treatment.	Your provider will talk to you about prevention.
HIV	Blood test	With your consent, additional testing will be done. Your provider will recommend that you get started on treatment right away.	Your provider will talk to you about prevention, including methods like Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) and can also pre- scribe condoms.
Human papillomavirus (HPV)	Swab test	Your provider may recommend additional testing and/or treatment.	Your provider may recommend additional testing and/or vaccination.
Syphilis	Blood test	Your provider will recommend treatment.	Your doctor will talk to you about prevention and can prescribe you condoms, if needed.
Gonorrhea & Chlamydia	Swab tests and urine test	Your provider will recommend treatment.	Your doctor will talk to you about prevention and can prescribe you condoms, if needed.

For more information, visit:

www.hiv.va.gov | www.hepatitis.va.gov | www.cdc.gov/std | wwwn.cdc.gov/nndss