

## Information on the hepatitis B vaccination

### What protection does the hepatitis B vaccination provide?

Vaccination provides the body's own defence system with protection against possible infection from the hepatitis B virus. It allows protective substances to develop – known as antibodies – that are able to capture those parts of the virus that have entered the body and make them harmless. Vaccination offers protection against any infection and the resulting conditions. It also helps to prevent the spread of this infectious disease.

### How is the vaccine administered?

Depending on the person's age, the hepatitis B vaccine is injected into the muscle of the upper arm twice (between the ages of 11 and 15) or three times (from age 16 onwards). The two or three injections are administered within a period of approximately six months.

### Free of charge for parents

The costs of vaccination are covered by the health insurance providers. The service is free of charge for parents.

### Side-effects

The most common side effects are local reactions at the injection site. These may be accompanied by pain or a mild fever. Severe hyper-sensitivity reactions (allergies) are very rare. Detailed investigations have shown that there is no causal relationship between the hepatitis B vaccination and multiple sclerosis (MS).

## Further information

### Federal Office of Public Health:

[www.sichimpfen.ch](http://www.sichimpfen.ch)

### Infovac:

[www.infovac.ch](http://www.infovac.ch)

### LUNGENLIGA AARGAU

#### vaccination service

Hintere Bahnhofstrasse 6

5001 Aarau

Tel. 062 832 40 04

Monday to Thursday

8:30 – 11:30 AM

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[www.lungenliga-ag.ch](http://www.lungenliga-ag.ch)

# Hepatitis B vaccinations for young people aged 11 to 15



Department of  
Health and Social Affairs

in cooperation with Lungenliga Aargau



Dear parents

In cooperation with school doctors and the cantonal medical officer service, the **LUNGENLIGA AARGAU** vaccination service carries out hepatitis B vaccinations at all state schools within Aargau at two-yearly intervals.

Both the Federal Office of Public Health and the Swiss Commission for Vaccination Matters recommend that young people between the ages of 11 and 15 should be vaccinated against hepatitis B.

This service is free of charge for you as a parent or carer.

The vaccination may only be administered with your written consent. We would therefore ask you to complete the **attached declaration of consent** and to give this to your child, together with his or her **original vaccination certificate** or a **current printout of his or her electronic vaccination certificate** for vaccination at school.

For further information, please feel free to contact the vaccination service.

**LUNGENLIGA AARGAU** vaccination service

## Information on hepatitis B

**General comments** In general, hepatitis B (infectious inflammation of the liver) is an extremely infectious disease. The risk of infection is highest among young adults (aged between 15 and 35).

**Infectious agent:** Hepatitis B virus

**Infection:** The hepatitis B virus can be found in all bodily fluids.

The most common routes of infection are:

1. Sexual contact with a person infected with hepatitis B (male or female)
2. Taking drugs using unsterilised needles and syringes
3. During childbirth, if the mother is a carrier of the virus
4. Close physical contact with an infected person (such as people in the same household or in close-knit communities)
5. Tattoos or piercings using unsterilised equipment

**Incubation period:** The time between infection and the onset of illness ranges from 45 to 180 days.

**Symptoms:** Tiredness, loss of appetite, nausea, pain in the stomach and limbs, fever, vomiting, jaundice with yellow colouration of the eyes and skin, dark urine and light-coloured stools. In many cases, the infection is not accompanied by any symptoms.

**Diagnosis:** The condition is diagnosed by means of a blood test.

**Treatment:** There is no treatment for acute hepatitis that improves the chances of recovery. Instead, the symptoms are treated (symptomatic relief).

**Progression / prognosis** Depending on the patient's age, the development of the infection, which often remains unnoticed, can vary significantly. The majority of infected people recover without any ill effects. However, 5 to 10% of people may develop chronic liver inflammation. Those affected may suffer from cirrhosis of the liver or liver cancer after a period of years.

**Prevention:** As well as having the hepatitis B vaccination described, care is advised when coming into contact with blood and bodily fluids; in other words, you should practice safer sex and avoid direct contact with potentially hazardous needles or syringes.