

Understanding Your Hepatitis B Test Results*



The Hepatitis B panel of blood tests includes three tests. All three results must be known in order to confirm your status. Below is a chart with the most common explanation of the test results, but unusual test results can occur.

PLEASE NOTE: this chart is not intended as medical advice. Talk to your health care provider for a full explanation and obtain a printed copy of your test results.

HBsAg Hepatitis B Surface Antigen Test	anti-HBs (HBsAb) Hepatitis B Surface Antibody Test	anti-HBc (HBcAb) Hepatitis B Core Antibody Test	What the results mean	WHAT YOU NEED TO DO
⊖	⊖	⊖	You are not immune/not protected <ul style="list-style-type: none"> You are not infected and have not been infected in the past. You are at risk for hepatitis B infection. 	Vaccine is needed
⊖	⊕	⊖	You are immune/protected <ul style="list-style-type: none"> You have not been infected. You are immune due to hepatitis B vaccination. 	No vaccine is needed
⊖	⊕	⊕	You are immune due to natural infection <ul style="list-style-type: none"> You have recovered from a prior hepatitis B infection. You cannot infect others. 	No vaccine is needed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tell all your doctors about your hepatitis B test results. Talk to your doctor before taking immunosuppressing medications because they can increase the risk of hepatitis B reactivation.
⊕	⊖	⊕	You are infected <ul style="list-style-type: none"> You have the hepatitis B virus in your blood. You can spread the hepatitis B virus to others. 	You need more testing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Find a doctor for further evaluation and testing. Tell all your doctors about your hepatitis B test results. Make sure your partner and those living with you get tested and vaccinated.
⊖	⊖	⊕	You could be infected <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Result unclear—possible past or current hepatitis B infection. 	You need more testing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Find a doctor for further evaluation and testing. Tell all your doctors about your hepatitis B test results. Talk to your doctor before taking immunosuppressing medications because they can increase the risk for hepatitis B reactivation. Make sure your partner and those living with you get tested and vaccinated.