



In Washington State, there are more than 8,000 cases and 100,000 lab results related to hepatitis C virus (HCV) every year. Given the high volume of HCV cases and limited resources, DOH recommends that local health jurisdictions prioritize HCV investigations in the following order:

## 1. CASES OF PUBLIC HEALTH IMPORTANCE

Cases of public health importance, like people with suspected healthcare-associated exposures or cases connected with an HCV outbreak, are top priorities. They should be thoroughly investigated and efforts should be made to stop further transmission of the virus and treat those affected.

## 2. ALT > 200 OR BILIRUBIN $\geq$ 3.0

Alanine aminotransferase (ALT) greater than 200 IU/L or bilirubin greater than or equal to 3.0 mg/dL indicates possible acute HCV infection. Acute cases represent people who are involved in active transmission of HCV and need public health intervention, including HCV treatment.

## 3. CHILDREN UNDER 3 YEARS

Children under 3 with HCV were most likely infected perinatally and usually cannot be treated for the infection until they are older. Their caregivers need information about hepatitis C transmission and protecting the child's liver health, including getting hepatitis A and B vaccines.

## 4. PERSONS BORN 1992 OR LATER

Young people with hepatitis C likely represent new infections. They may not know their HCV status, and could be using injection drugs and actively transmitting HCV. Public health intervention is necessary to interrupt the cycle of transmission and to link these people to HCV care.

## 5. PREGNANT PERSONS

While not all providers will treat a pregnant person for HCV, it is important to follow up on these cases in order to ensure the child receives appropriate HCV testing after birth as well as to link the pregnant person to HCV care for their own health and to protect any future children.

## 6. OTHER ADULTS

We know that many adults over the age of 28 are at risk for HCV due to injection drug use and other factors, and expanding public health efforts beyond the youngest adults increases capacity to stop HCV transmission and link more people to care.

## 7. BABY BOOMERS

Baby Boomers, born from 1945 to 1965, were likely infected with HCV a long time ago and need to be linked to HCV care. They are less likely to be transmitting the virus.