

Hepatitis B Virus Infection – High Endemic Geographic Areas

Children whose families have immigrated to Canada from areas where there is a high prevalence (8% or higher) of hepatitis B are at increased risk of hepatitis B infections even if neither parent is a chronic carrier. Adults who have immigrated from these areas are also at increased risk for hepatitis B infection. Offer hepatitis B vaccine as these children and adults are likely to be exposed to hepatitis B carriers through their extended families or when visiting friends and relatives in their country of origin.

Countries considered highly endemic (8% or higher HBsAg prevalence) for hepatitis B infection are listed by geographical areas below. Individuals from countries with no recent data that were previously listed as endemic remain eligible for hepatitis B vaccine. They are **bolded** below.

Africa		
Angola	Guinea-Bissau	Nigeria
Botswana	Lesotho	Sierra Leone
Central African Republic	Liberia	Eswatini (Swaziland)
Chad	Mali	Togo
Equatorial Guinea	Mauritania	Zimbabwe
Ghana	Namibia	
Guinea	Niger	
Central and Eastern Europe (including the independent states of the former Soviet Union) and the Middle East		
Turkmenistan		
Central and South America (interior Amazon basin and parts of the Caribbean)		
No countries identified.		
North America		
No countries identified.		
Southeast Asia and the South and Western Pacific Islands		
Philippines		Taiwan
Solomon Islands		Timor-Leste (East Timor)

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