

If you have hepatitis C, which vaccinations do you need?



The chart below shows which vaccinations you should have to protect your health. Make sure you and your healthcare provider keep your vaccinations up to date.

Influenza	<i>Probably.</i> You should receive one dose of the injectable influenza vaccine every year if you want to avoid getting sick with influenza.
Pneumococcal	<i>Yes!</i> This vaccine is specifically recommended for you if you have liver disease. If you haven't been vaccinated, you should get one dose now. If you've already been vaccinated and you were younger than age 65 when you got your shot, you should get another dose now, provided at least 5 years have passed since your first dose.
Tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis (Td, Tdap)	<i>Yes!</i> If you haven't had at least 3 tetanus-and-diphtheria-containing shots sometime in your life, you need to start or complete a 3-dose series now. Start with dose #1, followed by dose #2 in 1 month, and dose #3 in 6 months. You'll also need a Td booster dose every 10 years. If you're younger than 65 years, your next booster dose should also contain pertussis (whooping cough) vaccine—known as Tdap. Be sure to consult your healthcare provider any time you get a deep or dirty wound.
Hepatitis A (Hep A)	<i>Yes!</i> Chronic liver disease puts you at risk for serious complications if you get infected with the hepatitis A virus. If you've never been vaccinated against hepatitis A, you need 2 doses of this vaccine, spaced 6–18 months apart.
Hepatitis B (Hep B)	<i>Probably.</i> Most people with hepatitis C virus infection want to be protected against all forms of viral hepatitis to avoid liver disease complications. And if you have a risk factor for contracting hepatitis B, you should definitely be vaccinated. Discuss risk factors and vaccination with your healthcare provider. You need 3 doses of this vaccine. Start with dose #1 now, followed by dose #2 in 1 month, and dose #3 approximately 5 months later.
Measles, mumps, rubella (MMR)	<i>Maybe.</i> If you are an adult who was born in 1957 or later, you need at least 1 dose of MMR. Discuss your need for vaccination with your healthcare provider.
Varicella (Chickenpox)	<i>Maybe.</i> If you've never had the chickenpox disease, you should get vaccinated now (2 doses, 1–2 months apart).

For more information about hepatitis C, call the CDC-INFO Contact Center at (800) CDC-INFO [(800) 232-4636], visit www.cdc.gov/hepatitis, or go to www.hepprograms.org for a listing of hepatitis C organizations. You can also call the American Liver Foundation at (800) 465-4837 (www.liverfoundation.org) or the Hepatitis Foundation International at (800) 891-0707 (www.hepfi.org).

Do you travel outside the United States? If so, you may need additional vaccines. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) operates an international traveler's health information line. Call (877) 394-8747 or visit CDC's website at www.cdc.gov/travel for information about your destination. You may also consult a travel clinic or your healthcare professional.

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