



## Hepatitis B immunisations

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### Eligibility

Hepatitis B immunisation is available to staff in the following roles:

- Police Officer
- Police Community Support Officer
- Special Constable
- Detective Staff Investigator
- Custody Detention Officer
- Crime Scene Investigator

### Overview of Hepatitis

Hepatitis B is a liver disease that can cause mild illness lasting a few weeks, or it can lead to a serious, lifelong illness.

Acute hepatitis B infection is a short-term illness that can lead to fever, fatigue, loss of appetite, nausea, vomiting, jaundice (yellow skin or eyes, dark urine, clay-coloured bowel movements), and pain in the muscles, joints, and stomach.

Chronic hepatitis B infection is a long-term illness that occurs when the hepatitis B virus remains in a person's body. Most people who go on to develop chronic hepatitis B do not have symptoms, but it is still very serious and can lead to liver damage (cirrhosis), liver cancer, and death. Chronically infected people can spread hepatitis B virus to others, even if they do not feel or look sick themselves.

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Hepatitis B is spread when blood, semen, or other body fluid infected with the hepatitis B virus enters the body of a person who is not infected. People can become infected through:

- Blood, vomit, saliva, urine, faeces, sweat, semen / vaginal fluid, and pus.
- Exposure to blood from needlesticks or other sharp instruments.

It can get transmitted by:

- First Aid administration: Road Traffic Collisions / other accidents
- Public order situations: Assaults / during restraint
- Scene of crime: Sudden death
- Incorrect searching techniques

### Hepatitis B Vaccinations

Hepatitis B vaccine can prevent hepatitis B. The best way to protect against hepatitis B is to get vaccinated. Hepatitis B vaccine is given as 3 separate injections into the upper arm over a 6-month period (at zero, one month and six months). A blood test is then required to see if you have developed antibodies against the disease. The blood test is carried out 4-8 weeks after the 3rd dose of the vaccination to determine immunity. A booster may be required if you receive a low response to the three doses of the vaccine. The Occupational Health and Wellbeing department will inform individuals if a further dose is required. The vaccine stimulates the body's immune system to fight a possible hepatitis B infection without causing the disease itself. It cannot protect you from hepatitis B if you are already infected. It also cannot protect you against any other type of liver infection, or other types of hepatitis.

### How to Obtain the Vaccines

It is the responsibility of individuals to find a suitable clinical service who will administer the vaccines.

Your own GP may provide this vaccination, however, due to your role, this is classed as an occupational need, so may decline.

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### [How to claim back any costs](#)

Officers and staff eligible for the Hep B vaccines can claim back the cost of their vaccine through Agresso. You will be required to submit a copy of your receipt as proof of purchase. Click [here](#) for more information on submitting your claim through Using Agresso to claim overtime, expenses and mileage.

### [How to Obtain the Blood Test](#)

After you have had your 3rd injection you will be required to have a blood test to check your immunity levels. Please contact Occupational Health and Wellbeing to request a blood form. Contact details are 0300 122 8727 or via email.

Upon receipt of the blood form, please attend Derby Royal Hospital, Phlebotomy Dept, Derby, DE22 3NE or Chesterfield Royal Hospital, Phlebotomy Dept, Chesterfield, S44 5BL. An appointment is required. Please refer to the blood form for more details. There is no fee for this appointment.

You must remember to take the blood form provided with you when you attend for the blood test.

The blood result is sent direct to the Occupational Health and Wellbeing department for assessment, and you will be contacted by email with the result.

### [How to stay safe](#)

Exposure to body/blood fluids does not come under the above process. If you have an incident, you should contact Occupational Health and Wellbeing directly as a matter of urgency (0300 122 8727). The department's opening hours are Monday to Friday 08.30-17.00 hours.

### [Further information and guidance](#)

Should you have any queries please contact the Occupational Health and Wellbeing Department on 0300 122 8727.

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