



Perinatal Hepatitis B Prevention Unit  
Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE)

The Perinatal Hepatitis B Prevention Unit works to prevent the spread of the hepatitis B virus from the mother to her newborn baby. If a baby's mother is infected with the hepatitis B virus, the baby can also become infected at birth.

Nine in ten children that get the hepatitis B virus during the first year of life will carry the virus throughout their lives. These children have a higher risk of developing liver diseases like cirrhosis and liver cancer. Even children born to mothers that are not infected could become infected if not vaccinated.

In 2004-2005, The Perinatal Hepatitis B Prevention Unit estimates that 33 - 45 cases of hepatitis B were prevented through this program. This means fewer cases of liver disease in the future and significant medical cost savings and years of life saved.

The Perinatal Hepatitis B Prevention Unit also works to prevent the spread of the hepatitis B virus to any household and/or sexual contacts of pregnant woman. If the woman is infected with the hepatitis B virus, her contacts are offered free hepatitis B testing. If they are at risk of becoming infected or are not protected from infection, they are offered hepatitis B vaccine at no charge.