

# STATE OF COLORADO

Bill Ritter, Jr., Governor  
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*Dedicated to protecting and improving the health and environment of the people of Colorado*

Viral Hepatitis Program  
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Colorado Department  
of Public Health  
and Environment

## Perinatal Hepatitis B Prevention Unit

The Perinatal Hepatitis B Prevention Unit at the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) exists to help prevent the spread of the hepatitis B virus to newborn children and to any household and/or sexual contacts of a HBsAg-positive pregnant woman. The unit can provide:

- hepatitis B education to HBsAg-positive pregnant women;
- hepatitis B screening to household and/or sexual contacts of a HBsAg-positive pregnant woman;
- hepatitis B vaccination to susceptible contacts of an HBsAg-positive pregnant woman; and
- clinical staff training on issues related to perinatal hepatitis B
- patient educational materials and services are provided in a variety of languages.

The unit also works with obstetric, pediatric, and hospital providers to ensure continuity of care and appropriate treatment of the newborn child. On the back of this page, you will find a more comprehensive description of unit activities.

We thank you for partnering with the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment to help prevent the spread of hepatitis B. If you have any questions about perinatal hepatitis B case management, please feel free to contact one of the following individuals at our office:

<b>Amy Warner</b> , Program Manager	(303) 692-2673
<b>Vickie Weeast</b> , Perinatal Hepatitis B Case Manager <i>- Denver, Douglas &amp; Arapahoe counties</i>	(303) 692-2715
<b>Michele Heinzman</b> , Perinatal Hepatitis B Case Manager <i>- Remaining Colorado counties</i>	(303) 692-2761
<b>Wendy Griffin</b> , Nurse Consultant	(303) 692-2610
<b>Paula Robinson</b> , Program Assistant	(303) 692-2780

## Perinatal Hepatitis B Prevention Unit

### ***The following is the full sequence of events provided by perinatal hepatitis B case management:***

- In Colorado, Hepatitis B is a reportable disease by physicians and laboratories. Cases must be reported to CDPHE or the local public health agency within 7 days, whether or not supporting laboratory data are available. Laboratories must report positive-HBsAg or IgM anti-HBc serologic tests to CDPHE within 7 days.
- Once the laboratory or physician reports a positive-HBsAg test to CDPHE, a call is made to the physician's office on women who are 14 to 45 years of age to check whether or not the patient is pregnant.
- If the patient is pregnant, staff contacts the appropriate local public health or the physician's office for further information such as, "Is the patient aware of her positive status for hepatitis B?" "Has any education been done with the patient?"
- A CDPHE case manager contacts the patient. An interview is conducted and testing is offered to household and sexual contacts at no charge.
- Educational materials in a variety of languages are available to the patient and/or provider.
- CDPHE offers the hepatitis B vaccine series at no charge for contacts that test negative.
- Reminder letters are faxed to the patient's OB provider and letters with stickers indicating the mother's HBsAg status are sent to the planned delivery hospital in order to ensure birth dose administration of HBIG and hepatitis B vaccine to these high-risk infants.
- The baby is also followed (through the hospital of birth and the physician offices) to ensure that HBIG and the first hepatitis B vaccination is given at birth and the entire series is completed on time.
- Post-vaccination testing is recommended and is available free of charge to babies not covered by insurance.

## **Viral Hepatitis Program**

The Perinatal Hepatitis B Prevention Unit is part of CDPHE's Viral Hepatitis Program. The Viral Hepatitis Program was established in September 2000 to centralize hepatitis prevention activities in the Disease Control and Environmental Epidemiology Division. The Program seeks to promote the prevention of viral hepatitis by increasing disease awareness and prevention options; disseminating educational materials about services; communicating strategies for detection and treatment; designing screening protocols and providing information and referral services.

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