

Department of Kinesiology

Athletic Training Education Program

Hepatitis-B Vaccination

Fact Sheet

The following policy has been adopted by the **UL Lafayette Athletic Training Education Program** regarding Hepatitis-B vaccination.

All athletic training students and faculty are required to present documentation of a completed series of HBV immunizations or a signed waiver prior to participation in any athletic training clinical experiences.

Hepatitis B

Hepatitis B virus is one of the multiple causes of hepatitis. Although most people will recover completely from an acute infection, as many as 50% can become chronic carriers and 1 to 2% will die from full blown hepatitis. Chronic carriers, who may have no symptoms and others that show symptoms (such as chronic persistent hepatitis, chronic active hepatitis, cirrhosis or liver failure) could possibly transmit the virus to others. Hepatitis B is also strongly linked to causing Hepatoma, a form of liver cancer.

Hepatitis can be transmitted by contact with bodily fluids such as:

- Blood
- Semen and vaginal secretions
- Tears

- Saliva
- Urine
- Breast milk

All medical and allied medical/health care professionals are at high risk of acquiring Hepatitis B because of frequent exposure to potentially contaminated blood or bodily fluids.

With those facts in mind, the vaccine is strongly recommended to prevent illness from Hepatitis B

Hepatitis B Vaccine

The Hepatitis B vaccine is composed of noninfectious recombinant DNA Hepatitis B virus. Clinical studies have found that after 3 doses, 96% of healthy adults have become seroprotected. Individuals with immune system abnormalities have less response to the vaccine but over 67% of them develop antibodies. **If you have immune deficiency problems please consult your physician before receiving the vaccine.**

Dosing Schedule

Three (3) doses of the Hepatitis B vaccine are needed to provide protection and should be administered at the student's earliest opportunity followed by a second dose one (1) month later and finally the third dose completed in the sixth (6th) month.

Adverse Reaction

Most individuals tolerate the vaccine with little or no side effects. However, you must understand that some individuals will experience soreness, induration, redness and swelling at the site of the injection. In addition, some may experience fatigue, fever, headache, and dizziness. With any vaccine, expanded use by health care professionals will reveal other rare adverse reactions not yet discovered in clinical studies.

Contraindications

Individuals with hypersensitivity to yeast and other components of the vaccine should consider **NOT** taking the vaccine. **If you are currently experiencing any serious active infection, you should delay the use of Hepatitis B vaccine until the infection has resolved. The Hepatitis B vaccine should NOT be administered pregnant or lactating women unless authorized by their physician.**

Warnings

Anyone who experiences hypersensitivity reaction **AFTER** a Hepatitis B injection should not receive any further injections. The Hepatitis B vaccine may not prevent a hepatitis infection in a person who may have an unrecognized or early Hepatitis B infection at the time of the vaccine injection. In addition, a small percent of healthy individuals do not respond to the vaccine and do not develop immunity.