

Q & A: Priority Groups and Persons Eligible to Receive Missouri Initiative/317 Vaccine

Q1: Should a person coming to a Family Planning Clinic be considered “high-risk” and eligible for Hep B vaccine?

A1: No. Just because a client utilizes a family planning clinic does not indicate they fall into a high-risk category or activity.

Q2: Should a person requesting testing for an STD be considered high-risk and able to receive Hep B vaccine?

A2: Yes. Although technically they may or may not fit into one of the categories, err on the side of caution and vaccinate.

Q3: Can I give a Hep B to a pharmacy student?

A3: No. They are not at risk for blood-to-blood exposure. The same would be true for any employee that does not have the opportunity for blood exposure, such as office or maintenance personnel etc. working in a health care facility.

Q4: May I give a Hep A to someone that works at a restaurant?

A4: No. They are not eligible for 317 vaccine; unless there is an outbreak in the restaurant where they work. Although you may vaccinate them if you use private purchased vaccine or recommend they see their primary care physician for this vaccine.

Q5: Is it okay to give Hep B vaccine to a student entering a nursing program?

A5: Yes. It is a requirement for most programs and their occupation carries a risk of blood-to-blood contact. Although, you should check to see if they are insured, in which case Hep B may be covered.

Q6: Should we immunize prison inmates at a correctional facility using 317 vaccine?

A6: No. Corrections have the ability to order vaccines. However, if an inmate presents at the LPHA they would be considered Hep B high-risk and should be vaccinated.

Q7: Is it okay if we conduct a Tdap or Flu clinic at school so we can assure that all children get their immunization?

A7: That is a yes or no answer. Can you use only the vaccine you order from the VFC program at a school clinic? No, you may not. We don't have adequate vaccine to do all students regardless of insurance status in a large setting. You must screen appropriately and use private pay vaccine for those students that have insurance. You must also check with DHSS-VFC program staff to see if adequate vaccine is available.

Q8: An adult patient awaiting a transplant was referred by his physician for an immunization(s), are we allowed to immunize?

A8: Yes. This situation places the individual at high risk. Three of the vaccines where this may happen are Hep B, Hep A, and Hib.