Hepatitis B

Hepatitis B is a viral infection that can cause serious health problems, including liver damage, cirrhosis, liver cancer and even death. Protect yourself - know the facts about hepatitis B.
What is hepatitis B?
Hepatitis B is a viral infection that can cause serious health problems, including liver damage, cirrhosis, liver cancer and even death.

How can hepatitis B spread?
• Through sex with an infected partner
• Through contact with blood of an infected person
• From mother to child at birth

How can you help prevent hepatitis B?
• Get vaccinated (recommended for all infants at birth and adults at risk for hepatitis B infection)
• Practice safe sex
• Never share drug supplies (needles, syringes, etc)

What are the symptoms of hepatitis B?
Some people will have symptoms when they first become infected that can include:
• Jaundice (yellow eyes and skin)
• Abdominal pain
• Fatigue (feeling tired)
Most people with long-term (chronic) hepatitis B have no symptoms.

How do people know if they have hepatitis B?
A simple blood test is used to test for hepatitis B. Doctors do not always do this test so it is important to ask to be tested if you think you are at risk.

What is the treatment for hepatitis B?
Several medications can help manage chronic hepatitis B infection. It is important for people with chronic hepatitis B to have the health of their liver checked regularly by a doctor.

For more information, call 614-645-1474 (option 2) or visit columbus.gov/hepatitis.