Testing for Hepatitis B in Alaska

Why Get Tested?
- Worldwide, 2 billion people have been exposed to hepatitis B. An estimated 1 million people die every year from causes related to hepatitis B, including approximately 5,000 people in the United States.
- It may take 20 to 30 years for people with chronic hepatitis B to begin to experience symptoms, and most people who have chronic hepatitis B are unaware of their infection.
- Individuals may still transmit hepatitis B to others even if they do not feel any symptoms.
- When left untreated, chronic hepatitis B may lead to life-threatening conditions such as liver failure and liver cancer. Fortunately, hepatitis B can be treated. [For more information, see the Alaska Viral Hepatitis Resource Guide.]

Populations Recommended or Required for Routine Hepatitis B Testing
- The following list details some of the highest risk populations for hepatitis B. [For more complete information, see the CDC’s 2008 MMWR article “Recommendations for Identification and Public Health Management of Persons with Chronic Hepatitis B Virus Infection.”]
- Hepatitis B testing is recommended for the following populations:
  - People born in regions with moderate or high hepatitis B rates, especially in Asia and Africa. [Click here for a map of these regions.]
  - Unvaccinated persons born in the U.S. to parents from regions with moderate or high hepatitis B rates. [Click here for a map of these regions.]
  - All pregnant women
  - All infants born to mothers with hepatitis B
  - Men who have had sex with men
  - People who have used injection drugs
  - People needing chemotherapy and other immunosuppressant therapy
  - People with persistently abnormal alanine aminotransferase (ALT) levels
  - People who are or were hemodialysis patients

Testing Sites
- Anchorage:
  - Anchorage Neighborhood Health Center
    - To schedule an appointment, call (907) 743-7200.
    - [For more information, see the Anchorage Neighborhood Health Center’s website.]
  - Municipality of Anchorage Reproductive Health Clinic
    - To schedule an appointment, call (907) 343-4623.
    - Be sure to call at least 24 hours ahead of your desired appointment time.
    - [For more information, see the Muni Reproductive Health Clinic’s website.]

- Fairbanks: Interior Community Health Center
  - To schedule an appointment, call (907) 452-1776.

- Other Locations
  - Many towns have Public Health Centers that provide hepatitis B tests. [Click here for a list of Public Health Centers in Alaska.]
  - Other towns and villages have health care sites that offer hepatitis B tests. [Click here for a directory of health care sites in Alaska.]
  - Alaska Health Fairs offer hepatitis B testing as well as many other health screening services. They travel around the state from early spring to autumn. [Click here to view the schedule.]