



Viral Hepatitis Test Results and Interpretations*

Exposure Type or Risk Factors	Approximate Time from Exposure	Hepatitis B Surface Antigen (HBsAg)	Hepatitis B Surface Antibody (HBsAb)	Hepatitis B core Total Antibody (Total anti-HBc)	Hepatitis B core IgM Antibody (IgM anti-HBc)	Interpretation
Engerix-B Vaccine	1-2 months after 3rd vaccine	Not done	Negative	Not done	Not done	Presumptive non-immunity to HBV infection. Susceptible.
		Not done	Indeterminate	Not done	Not done	For indeterminate results, further assess patient's immune status by considering other clinical information.
		Not done	Positive	Not done	Not done	Hepatitis B surface antibody (HBsAb) detected at ≥ 10 mIU/mL. Indicates immunity to infection with HBV.
HEPLISAV-B Vaccine	2 doses over 1 month	<i>*Note: HBsAg may produce a false positive result up to one month post vaccination.</i>				
Hepatitis B Known Exposure OR Risk Factors	< 3 months	Negative	Negative	Negative	Negative	Incubation period. Vaccinate. Hepatitis B Immune Globulin (HBIG) may be indicated.
	1-3 months	Positive	Negative	Negative	Negative	Indicates early acute stage of infection or late incubation. Diagnose with aid of clinical presentation. Patient may be infectious.
	3 months	Positive	Negative	Positive	Positive	Indicates hepatitis B acute infection. Patient may be infectious.
	3-6 months	Negative	Positive	Positive	Positive	Indicates early recovery and immunity. Infectivity unknown.
	> 6 months	Positive	Negative	Positive	Negative	Indicates chronic infection.
	≥ 6 months	Negative	Positive	Positive	Negative	Indicates previous HBV infection and immunity; infectivity unknown.
	6-8 months	Negative	Negative	Positive	Positive	Window phase of a resolving acute infection when the HBsAg is no longer detectable and before the HBsAb is detectable.
	6-12 months	Negative	Negative	Positive	Negative	Four possibilities: 1) Resolved infection; 2) False positive anti-HBc, thus susceptible; 3) Resolving acute infection; 4) "Low Level" chronic infection. Patient should not give blood.
	Years	Negative	Positive	Positive	Negative	Indicates recovery. Immune due to natural infection.

*Note: These results and interpretations are for serum tests for viral hepatitis, as performed by the State Lab. This chart was developed by Florida Department of Health, Bureau of Public Health Laboratories and the Hepatitis Prevention Program.



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Exposure Type or Risk Factors	Approximate Time from Exposure	IgM	Total antibody	Interpretation
Hepatitis A Known Exposure Or Risk Factors	2-9 weeks	IgM Positive	Total Antibody Positive	Early acute hepatitis A infection. Patient potentially infectious.
	3-6 months	IgM Positive	Total Antibody Positive	Acute hepatitis A infection. No need for vaccine.
	Months to Years		Total Antibody Positive	Recovery state. Patient immune to hepatitis A. No need for vaccine.
Vaccine	Months to Years		Total Antibody Positive	Antibody to hepatitis A detected. Patient immune. Post-vaccination testing usually not recommended.
Exposure Type or Risk Factors	Approximate Time from Exposure	Hepatitis C antibody (anti-HCV)	NAT or HCV RNA	Interpretation
Hepatitis C Risk Factor Or Blood Donor Or ALT > 200 IU/mL Or Bilirubin > 3.0 Mg/dL Or Acute Hepatitis Laboratories	1-2 weeks	Negative	Positive	Indicates early acute hepatitis C infection. Viral load can be detected prior to antibody response.
	> 6 months	Negative	Indeterminate or Not Done	Indicates immunocompetent patient without acute infection or possible immunosuppressed patient with acute infection.
	2-26 weeks	Negative or Indeterminate		Possible incubation stage. Retest 6 months after exposure.
ACRONYMS ALT: Alanine Aminotransferase Anti-HCV: Antibody to HCV BPHL: Bureau of Public Health Laboratories HBV: Hepatitis B virus HCV: Hepatitis C virus NAT: Nucleic Acid Testing RNA: Ribonucleic Acid	> 6 months	Positive	Positive	Indicates current HCV infection.
	> 6 months	Positive	Negative	Indicates past exposure to HCV. Hepatitis C antibodies remain detectable for life following exposure.
			Indeterminate or Not Done	Antibody to HCV detected but not confirmed by a more specific assay. Possible false positive or virus at undetectable limit. Repeat in 6 months.

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**Different assays have different ratios that correspond to a >95 % chance that results will confirm positive.