What is Hepatitis B?

Hepatitis B is a vaccine-preventable liver infection caused by the hepatitis B virus (HBV). Hepatitis B is a leading cause of liver cancer.

Basic Facts

- **Hepatitis B** affects almost 300 million people worldwide, including over 6 million children under age 5
- About **2 in 3 people** with hepatitis B do not know they are infected
- **Hepatitis B** is not spread through food or water
- If you have hepatitis B, you are also at risk for hepatitis D. If you test positive for hepatitis B, you should also be tested for hepatitis D.

Source: cdc.gov

Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders (AANHPI), represent less than 5% of the total US population, but they account for 50% of the nearly one million Americans living with chronic hepatitis B.
Hepatitis B: What You Need to Know

How it Spreads

Hepatitis B is a vaccine-preventable virus that is transmitted when blood, semen, or other body fluids from an HBV-infected person enters the body of someone who is not infected. This can happen through sexual contact; sharing needles, syringes, or other drug-injection equipment; or during birth when HBV can be transmitted from mother to child.

Symptoms

Not all people newly infected with hepatitis B (HBV) have symptoms, but for those who do, symptoms can include:
- Fatigue
- Poor appetite
- Stomach pain
- Nausea
- Jaundice

Diagnosis & Treatment

Your healthcare provider will examine you, looking for signs of liver damage. Blood tests and liver ultrasound will be taken and possibly a liver biopsy.

Avoid alcohol/tobacco, and eat healthy foods. There are approved drugs that control the hepatitis B (HBV) virus, which helps reduce the risk of your HBV getting worse.

Prevention

The best way to prevent hepatitis B is to get vaccinated.