Hepatitis B is a liver disease caused by the hepatitis B virus (HBV).

Hepatitis B spreads through an infected person's blood, semen, or other bodily fluid.

**Signs and Symptoms**

- **Fever**
- **Feeling Very Tired**
- **Loss of Appetite**
- **Nausea and Vomiting**
- **Abdominal Pain**
- **Dark Urine**

Signs and symptoms of hepatitis B can also include clay-colored stool, joint pain, and jaundice (yellow color in the skin or eyes). Most people do not show any signs or symptoms. If symptoms do occur, they usually start about three months after exposure. Symptoms usually last for several weeks to six months.

Talk to your doctor if you think you have hepatitis B. Hepatitis B is diagnosed with blood tests.

There is no specific treatment for acute hepatitis B, but several drugs are available to treat chronic hepatitis B.
Hepatitis B Risk Factors

- People Who Use Injection Drugs
- People Who Are or Were Incarcerated
- Baby Boomers, or Those Born Between 1946 and 1964
- People Who Have Multiple Sex Partners
- People Who Use Non-Injection Drugs
- People Who Were Born to a Mother with Hepatitis B Virus

Other risk factors include men who have sex with men, having a sexually transmitted disease, living with a person with chronic hepatitis B, and sharing personal care items.

Prevention

- The best way to prevent it is by getting the hepatitis B vaccine. The vaccine is usually given as 3 to 4 shots over 6 months.

For More Information, Visit:

1. www.maineg.gov/dhhs/hepatitis
2. www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/hbv

You can also call Maine CDC at 1-800-821-5821.