

NOTICE TO ALL EMPLOYEES

FREE HEPATITIS B VACCINATIONS OFFERED TO AFFECTED EMPLOYEES

WHAT IS HEPATITIS B VIRUS (HBV)?

Hepatitis B is a viral infection of the liver. HBV may be found in virtually all body fluids and secretions with blood and blood fluids having the greatest concentration. Most people recover completely from HBV but the infection may incapacitate you for several months during the acute phase. A small number of cases progress to life threatening liver disease and may be fatal. You can protect yourself from HBV by becoming vaccinated.

WHAT EMPLOYEES ARE AFFECTED?

Federal and State law requires that all employees who have a reasonable expectation of occupational exposure to blood borne pathogens be offered hepatitis B vaccines at NO CHARGE TO THE EMPLOYEE.

WHAT IS CONSIDERED AN OCCUPATIONAL EXPOSURE?

The law defines an occupational exposure as reasonably anticipated skin, eye, mucous membrane, or parenteral contact with blood or other potentially infectious material that result from the performance of an employee's duties. Parenteral is defined as piercing mucous membranes or the skin barrier through such events as needle sticks, human bites, cuts, and abrasions.

WHAT IS INVOLVED IN GETTING VACCINE?

The employee must review the educational materials on the hepatitis virus and the hepatitis vaccine. After this review you must sign a declination or consent form. If you decide to have the vaccine it will be given in a series of three injections; one initially and the others at one month and six months from the initial vaccination.

IS THERE A POST VACCINATION TEST?

Only employees who have a *continuous* parenteral exposure to blood and body fluids will be able to get a free post vaccination blood test, usually 1-2 months after the last dose of vaccine.

IS THERE ANY FEE INVOLVED?

NO. This vaccination is made available at no charge to the employee.

WHO DO I CONTACT FOR MORE INFORMATION?

The Human Resources Office or the College Student Health Center has more information on this vaccine and will help you determine if you are eligible.

See the Risk Management Guideline #01-04 for additional details.