

What is a Blood Borne Virus (BBV)?

A Blood Borne Virus (BBV) is a germ that can live in someone's blood.

Some people have a BBV and do not feel ill. They may not even know they have it. But they can still pass it on to someone else.

The main BBVs are:

- HIV
- Hepatitis B
- Hepatitis C

Why might there be a risk?

BBVs can spread if infected blood gets into another person's body.

This can sometimes happen if a sharp object, like a needle or knife, has been used on someone else.

If we are not sure whether the object could carry one of these viruses, we treat it as a possible risk.

A doctor will talk with you and your parent or carer to decide what to do next.

How do we test for BBVs?

The only way to know if someone has a BBV is with a blood test.

We will take a small amount of blood from your arm.

We will:

- Do a blood test now
- Do another blood test in 6 months

This helps us make sure you are safe and well.

What about the Hepatitis B vaccine?

There is a vaccine that protects against Hepatitis B.

Most children have this vaccine as part of their normal baby immunisations.

We can check your blood to see if you are already protected.

If needed, we will offer you the Hepatitis B vaccine.

You will have:

- One injection today

- One injection in 1 month
- One injection in 2 months
- A final injection in 12 months

Why is testing important?

The risk of getting a BBV is low.

But if someone does have a BBV, it is important to find out early.

Treatment works much better when started early.

Some BBVs can even be cured.

Knowing the result helps us keep you and other people safe.

Who decides about testing?

We will ask:

- You
- Your parent or carer

We will explain everything so you can decide together.

What happens after the test?

If the test is negative (no virus found):

- You will not need any more blood tests after 6 months.

If the test is positive (a virus is found):

- We will ask you to come back.
- You will see the Infectious Diseases Team.
- They are doctors who are experts in treating infections.
- They will explain everything and talk about treatment.

Your results are private.

We will only share them with:

- You
- Your parent or carer
- Your GP

Important

This leaflet gives general information. Always talk to your doctor or nurse if you have questions.

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