Thanks to vaccination, the Americas has the LOWEST estimated hepatitis B infection rate in children under 5 years of age IN THE WORLD.

**The disease**

Hepatitis B can be acute (short-term) or chronic (long term), and can cause serious complications such as liver scarring.

**Transmission**

- From mother to child during childbirth
- Through contact with:
  - Blood or other infected bodily fluids (saliva, semen and flujo vaginal and menstrual).
  - Syringes or other instruments infected objects.

**Symptoms**

Most people have no symptoms. Some people present acute cases with symptoms lasting several weeks:
- Yellowing of the skin and eyes (jaundice).
- Dark urine Extreme fatigue.
- Nausea, vomiting, and abdominal pain.
- Acute hepatitis can cause acute liver failure, which is life-threatening.
- Long-term complications include chronic infection, cirrhosis and hepatocellular carcinomas.

**Vaccines**

- The hepatitis B vaccine is EFFECTIVE, SAFE and offers 98-100% PROTECTION against the disease and its more serious complications.
- Hepatitis B vaccination of infants and children helps PREVENT mother-to-child transmission, creates COMMUNITY IMMUNITY and moves the region toward ELIMINATION of the disease.

Hepatitis vaccines include:
- Pediatric and adult Pentavalent (Against diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, and Hib or Polio)
- Hexavalent (Against diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, Hib, and Polio)

**Calendar**

1ST DOSE preferably at birth in the FIRST 24 HOURS OF LIFE. 3 ADDITIONAL DOSES IN THE FIRST YEAR OF LIFE.

Persons who have not been vaccinated or persons:
- Who frequently require blood or blood products, dialysis patients and solid organ transplant recipients;
- Prisoners who inject drugs;
- Who are household and sexual contacts of persons with chronic HBV infection;
- With multiple sexual partners;
- Who are health care workers and other professions that may be exposed to blood and blood products through their work;
- Who are travelers who have not completed their HBV series; and
- Pregnant women who have not been vaccinated.

For more information, visit: www.paho.org/immunization