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

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

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.

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

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