

# Get Your Hepatitis B Titer Drawn NOW

**The number one reason that students are unable to begin patient care during their first month of medical school is incomplete medical records, especially deficiencies in the Hepatitis B requirements.**

**Approximately 50% of our accepted class will have a negative Hepatitis B titer result which may require up to an additional 7 months of repeat vaccinations/titer.**

A large number of accepted students are caught off guard when they receive a negative or equivocal titer result from their Hepatitis B immunity testing. Negative or equivocal results require additional vaccinations and then a repeat titer. Delays in fulfilling the Hepatitis B vaccine requirement will prevent students from participating in required, graded learning events which involve patient care. Non-participation in required learning events will negatively impact your grade in the course.

**If you do not already have a positive titer, please get your Hepatitis B titer drawn now.**

If you find that you need an additional 3 dose Hepatitis B vaccination series, you may be able to receive all three doses and the repeat titer by the start of medical school in July.

**For affordable lab options, look for a Direct Access Testing Lab near you.**

WVU Medicine has a direct access testing lab in Morgantown, WV: <https://wvumedicine.org/ruby-memorial-hospital/medical-laboratory-services/direct-access-testing/>

## Hepatitis B FAQ's

### What is a titer?

A titer is a laboratory test that measures the presence and amount of antibodies in blood. A titer is used to prove immunity to disease. **A blood sample will be drawn and tested.**

If the test is positive (above a particular known value) the individual has immunity (this is what you want). If the test is negative (no immunity) or equivocal (not enough immunity) you need to be re-vaccinated, with one or more boosters. (This is the series that may take up to 7 months to complete.)

### Which Hepatitis B titer do I need? Hepatitis

B Surface Ab Titer (IgG)

### If my titer says equivocal, what does that mean?

Equivocal means you are partially immune, and you will need a booster to increase your likelihood of immunity.

### What if I don't get the series completed by start of school?

As long as you are up to date on the boosters in the series, you will be considered compliant. However, it's very common to begin classes and neglect your Hep B series. You will be pulled from meeting with patients if you fail to receive your repeat vaccinations/titer by each due date.