

Interpretation of hepatitis B virus serologic testing

| Interpretation | Serologic markers | | | |
|---|--------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| | HBsAg [*] | Total anti-HBc [†] | IgM [§] anti-HBc | Anti-HBs [¶] |
| Susceptible, never infected | - | - | - | - |
| Acute infection, early incubation period ^{**} | + | - | - | - |
| Acute infection | + | + | + | - |
| Acute resolving infection | - | + | + | - |
| Past infection, recovered and immune | - | + | - | + |
| Chronic infection | - | + | - | - |
| False positive (i.e., susceptible), past infection, or low-level chronic infection | - | + | - | - |
| Immune from vaccination if antibody concentration >10 milli international units per milliliter (mIU/mL) | - | - | - | + |

* Hepatitis B surface antigen.

† Antibody to hepatitis B core antigen.

§ Immunoglobulin M.

¶ Antibody to hepatitis B surface antigen.

** Transient HBsAg positivity (lasting <21 days) might be detected in certain patients during vaccination.

Reference: Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report Recommendations and Reports January 24, 2003/52(RR01);1-33
<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr5201a1.htm>