

WHEREAS, the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) and the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommend all infants be immunized for HepB at birth, 2 months and 6 months;<sup>1</sup>

WHEREAS, each year, 100,000 Americans contract HepB, a very contagious disease;

WHEREAS, the highest rate of disease occurs in 20-49 year olds;<sup>3</sup>

WHEREAS, the AAP and the ACIP recommend HepB vaccination for all adolescents and in addition, the American College Health Association (ACHA) recommends the same for all college students;<sup>4,5</sup>

WHEREAS, HepB is spread through sexual transmission, direct contact with blood or other body fluids, although many of those infected have no know risks factors;

WHEREAS, more than 1 million people in the U.S. are chronic carriers of HepB virus, and less than 30% of those infected show no signs of infection and therefore may pass it on to others unknowingly;<sup>6</sup>

WHEREAS, HepB and resulting complications such as cirrhosis of the liver, cause the deaths of more than 5,000 Americans each year-an average of 14 people per day;<sup>2</sup>

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the ASHA:

- 1) recommends all youth be vaccinated against HepB;
- 2) school nurses and staff in high risk positions be vaccinated against HepB;
- 3) urges school health professionals to initiate HepB prevention programs to educate students and their parents about HepB and its prevention.

#### References

1. American Academy of Pediatrics. *AAP Redbook*. Section 3. Hepatitis B: 335-355. Report of the Committee on Infectious Diseases. 27th ed. Elk Grove, IL: 2006.
2. Hepatitis B Foundation. 2006. Available at: [http://www.hepb.org/patients/general\\_information.htm#ques2](http://www.hepb.org/patients/general_information.htm#ques2). Accessed March 6, 2007.
3. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Hepatitis B Facts Sheet. 2006. Available at: <http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/diseases/hepatitisb/facts.htm>.
4. Hepatitis B Foundation. Available at: [http://www.hepb.org/hepb/vaccine\\_information.htm](http://www.hepb.org/hepb/vaccine_information.htm).
5. American College Health Association. Vaccine Preventable Disease Committee. Recommendations for institutional prematriculation immunizations. Baltimore, MD. 2006.
6. Bristol-Myers Squibb Company. "Aim for B" –Public Education Program for "HepB awareness week." 2005. Available at:

[http://www.bms.com/news/press/data/pf\\_press\\_release\\_5576.html](http://www.bms.com/news/press/data/pf_press_release_5576.html). Accessed December 21, 2005.

Revised: 2008

Year Adopted: 1994

© 2008

**American School Health Association**

7263 State Route 43 / P.O. Box 708

Kent, OH 44240

330/678-1601 (phone); 330/678-4526 (fax); [asha@ashaweb.org](mailto:asha@ashaweb.org) (e-mail)

[www.ashaweb.org](http://www.ashaweb.org)