

## Testing Recommendations for Children Born to Persons with Hepatitis C Virus

If Child is:	Order the Following Test(s):
Two Months of Age–Less Than 18 Months of Age	Hepatitis C Virus RNA
18 Months of Age and Older	Hepatitis C Virus Antibody and, if positive, Hepatitis C Virus RNA

### Frequently Asked Questions

Why are children not tested for hepatitis C virus antibody prior to 18 months of age?

- Hepatitis C virus antibody testing before 18 months of age is not recommended as a positive result could likely reflect transient maternal hepatitis C virus antibodies.

Can a person with hepatitis C virus vertically transmit hepatitis C virus to their child during pregnancy or birth?

- A person must be viremic (hepatitis C virus RNA-positive) during pregnancy to transmit hepatitis C virus to their child.
- The chance of a person with hepatitis C virus vertically transmitting the virus to their child is approximately 7% with each pregnancy.
- Hepatitis C virus transmission occurs at the time of birth, and no intrapartum or newborn prophylaxis is currently available.
- Most children with hepatitis C virus show few or no signs of being sick, but if untreated, hepatitis c virus can lead to serious liver damage.
- Treatment for hepatitis C virus is now available for children three years of age and older.

What hepatitis C virus information is reportable to the Tennessee Department of Health?

- Laboratories must report hepatitis C virus antibody tests (positive) and RNA results (both positive and negative) to the Tennessee Department of Health:
  - <https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/health/documents/reportable-diseases/2023-Detailed-Laboratory-Guidance.pdf>
- Providers must report cases of perinatal hepatitis C virus or cases of acute hepatitis C virus to the Tennessee Department of Health within one week of identification:
  - <https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/health/documents/reportable-diseases/2023-Provider-list.pdf>