



Table 3-3. US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists (CSTE) case definition for chronic hepatitis B, 2012

Criteria Type	Criteria
Age	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • >24 months of age, OR • ≤24 months of age and the mode of exposure was not perinatal
Clinical	No symptoms are required. People with chronic hepatitis B might have no evidence of liver disease or might have a spectrum of diseases ranging from chronic hepatitis to cirrhosis or liver cancer.
Diagnostic Laboratory*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Negative Immunoglobulin M (IgM) antibody to hepatitis B core antigen (anti-HBc IgM) AND a positive result on one of the following tests: HBsAg, nucleic acid test (NAT) for HBV DNA (including qualitative, quantitative, or genotype), or hepatitis B e antigen (HBeAg), OR • Positive for any combination of the following tests two times at least 6 months apart: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Hepatitis B surface antigen (HBsAg) » NAT for HBV DNA (including qualitative, quantitative, or genotype testing) » HBeAg
Presumptive Laboratory*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does not meet the case definition for acute hepatitis B AND • Has one positive HBsAg, NAT for HBV DNA (including qualitative, quantitative, or genotype testing), or HBeAg laboratory result
Case Status	Classification
Confirmed Chronic*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • >24 months of age OR ≤24 months of age and the mode of exposure was not perinatal, AND • Has diagnostic laboratory evidence
Probable Chronic*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • >24 months of age OR ≤24 months of age and the mode of exposure was not perinatal, AND • Has presumptive laboratory evidence, AND • Does not meet the clinical criteria of the acute hepatitis B case definition
Comments	Multiple laboratory tests indicative of chronic hepatitis B might be performed simultaneously on the same patient specimen as part of a “hepatitis panel.” Testing performed in this manner can lead to seemingly discordant results, e.g., HBsAg-negative AND HBV DNA-positive. For the purposes of this case definition, any positive result among the three laboratory tests mentioned above is acceptable, regardless of other testing results. Negative HBeAg results and HBV DNA levels below positive cutoff level do not confirm the absence of HBV infection.

*Surveillance programs should provide prevention programs with information on people who have positive test outcomes for post-test counseling and referral to treatment and care, as appropriate.