What do my hepatitis C test results mean?

1 Antibody test

Positive means you were exposed. Get an RNA test to see if you are infected.

Negative means you were not exposed and you are not infected.

2 RNA test

Positive means you are infected and have chronic hepatitis C.

Negative means you are not infected. Your antibody test will always be positive, even though you don't have hepatitis C.

3 Start treatment

There is a cure! New treatments do not include interferon and have almost no side effects. See a doctor before hepatitis C causes bad liver damage.

Prevent hepatitis A and B

Hepatitis A and B can damage your liver. Get vaccinated. The vaccines are a series of shots given over 6 months.

Use clean works

Sharing or reusing rigs, cookers, cottons, water, straws or ties makes it easier to catch or spread hepatitis, HIV and more.

Never share your works. Use new, clean equipment every time.

You can exchange needles and syringes and get clean works from Dave Purchase Project Tacoma Needle Exchange.

Dave Purchase Project Tacoma Needle Exchange

TacomaNeedleExchange.org
(253) 334-9576
Call for hours of operation.

Needle and syringe exchange and clean works sites

- 3716 Pacific Ave., Suite F
  Tacoma, WA 98418
- S. 14th St. & G St.
  Tacoma, WA 98405
- Puyallup Tribe
  E. 32nd St. & Portland Ave. E.
  Tacoma, WA 98404

Mobile deliveries by appointment

Text or leave message by 10 a.m.
(253) 381-5229

Hepatitis C test history

Antibody test

Provider: Test date: Result:

RNA test

Provider: Test date: Result:

Tacoma-Pierce County
Health Department
Healthy People in Healthy Communities

3629 S. D St., Tacoma, WA 98418
(253) 649-1412 • tpchd.org

Contact us for more information about:

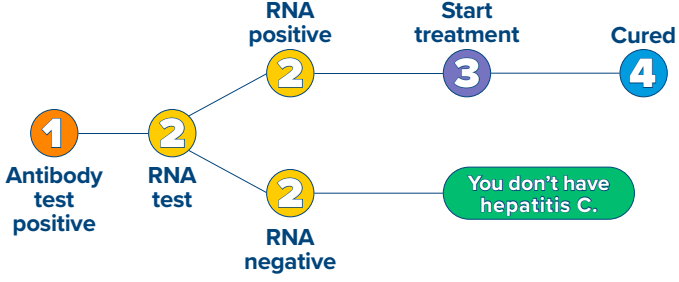
- Hepatitis prevention, testing and treatment.
- Free vaccines.

You care provider:

Adapted with permission from Department of Public Health, City of Philadelphia. Updated March 2022.

Hepatitis C

From test to cure



1. A positive antibody test means you might have hepatitis C.
2. An RNA test tells you if you do or don't have hepatitis C.
3. There is a cure! New treatments have almost no side effects.
4. You've finished treatment and your RNA test is negative.