# H A M P S H I R E C O L L E G E
# BLOODBORNE PATHOGEN EXPOSURE CONTROL PLAN

## HEPATITIS B VACCINE (RECOMBINANT)
## EMPLOYEE INFORMATION SHEET

Hepatitis B Recombinant vaccine is a non-infectious viral vaccine derived from Hepatitis B surface antigen (HBsAg) produced in yeast cells. A portion of the Hepatitis B virus gene, which codes for HBsAg is cloned into yeast, and the vaccine for Hepatitis B is produce from cultures of this recombinant yeast strain. The HBsAg proteins are released from the yeast cells by cell disruption and purified by a series of physical and chemical methods. The vaccine may contain up to 4% yeast protein. It has been shown to be comparable to the plasma-derived vaccine. Each lot is tested for safety and sterility. This recombinant vaccine is free of association with human blood or blood products.

Employees occupationally exposed to blood or other potentially infectious materials are encouraged to have the vaccine. Hepatitis B may occur when the virus, transmitted by infected body fluids, is absorbed by mucous membranes or through breaks in the skin. The virus is predominantly in the blood of patients with active Hepatitis B or patients who are chronic carriers. It is also found in tears, saliva, breast milk, urine, semen and vaginal secretions. It can survive for days on environmental surfaces. Transmission is also associated with close interpersonal contact with an infected individual and crowded living conditions.

The recombinant vaccine induces protective levels of antibodies in greater than 90% of healthy adults who receive the recommended 3 doses. Two additional follow-up booster doses may needed for some individuals. Hepatitis B Immune Globulin given simultaneously with recombinant Hepatitis B vaccine does not interfere with the induction of Hepatitis B antibodies by the vaccine.

The vaccine is not recommended for those with hypersensitivity to yeast, aluminum hydroxide, and thimerosal (a mercury derivative).

It is not known whether recombinant Hepatitis B vaccine can cause fetal harm when administered to a pregnant woman or can affect reproductive capacity. Also, it is not known whether it is excreted in human milk. Pregnant women should consult with their obstetrician prior to vaccination.

The vaccine is generally well tolerated. No serious adverse effects or serious hypersensitivity reactions have been reported. No adverse experiences related to yeast antibodies have been reported. However, as with any vaccine, further broad use of the vaccine could reveal adverse reactions not noted in clinical trials. Injection site and generalized complaints have been reported. These include local pain, redness, and swelling at the injection site. Generalized complaints many include fatigue/weakness, headache, low fever, malaise, nausea, diarrhea, and cold-like symptoms.

The vaccine is given intra-muscularly in 3 doses. The first 2 doses are given one month apart, and the third dose 6 months after the first. Persons with immuno-deficiency or those receiving immuno-suppressive therapy (radiation therapy, chemotherapy, or steroids), should report this information before receiving the vaccine. Also, those with any active infection or severe cardiopulmonary condition should report this before receiving the vaccine. **Recipients of the vaccine should still continue to use precautions in handling blood, blood products, and other body fluids. They should also continue to report needle sticks and direct contact with those products to their Supervisor.**

The vaccine will be administered by Health Services, or, when the Health Center is closed, by a health care provider chosen by Human Resources. If you choose not to receive the vaccine at this time, you must sign a declination statement. Please decide if you would like to receive the vaccine by _____. If you would like to receive the vaccine, call Health Services at ext. 5458, or when Health Services is closed, call Environmental Health & Safety at ext. 6620. If you choose not to receive the vaccine, sign the provided declination statement and return it to the Environmental Health & Safety Office.