

When do I need to see a doctor If I have hepatitis B or C?



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You should see your doctor when:

- 1. You need to do your regular check-ups for your liver as requested by your doctor, such as regularly blood tests, ultrasound and Fibroscans**
- 2. You feel unwell. You should contact your GP; or go to your nearest emergency department if you are very unwell and cannot contact your GP**

You should contact your doctor if you have symptoms that concern you.

Symptoms of hepatitis B or C include:

- Flu-like symptoms
- Yellowing of the eyes and skin
- Loss of appetite
- Nausea and vomiting
- Unusual tiredness
- Swelling of the legs or abdomen
- Unusual aches and pains

Any one of these symptoms should be assessed by your doctor. Some of the symptoms are similar to those for the coronavirus or flu but could be due to your hepatitis and need urgent review by a doctor.

Can you still see your GP if you are sick during the current lockdown?

Yes. But you should call ahead to make an appointment. The reception or nurses will ask you questions about your symptoms and if you have had any recent travel or contact with a person who has been diagnosed with COVID-19.

The doctor will either ask you to come to their clinic or discuss your symptoms over the phone by telehealth. Doctor and clinic staff are taking precautions to keep people safe who come to their clinic. However, it is better to avoid public transport and do not bring other people such as your family members, especially children, with you unless they need to see the doctor as well and have made their appointments.

Can you still call an ambulance or go to your hospital emergency department if you are very unwell?

Yes. Hospitals are working as usual. It is better to go to the hospital than to be very unwell at home. The hospitals are still able to treat people and would rather see people early before their condition gets so bad that they need long term treatment in hospital.

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How can we help?

ECCQ's Hepatitis, HIV/AIDS and Sexual Health Program provides free Hepatitis, HIV/AIDS and STIs information, resources and support in different languages. Please contact us at:

Website: eccq.com.au/health

Phone: 07 3844 9166

Email: health@eccq.com.au

You can also contact our staff directly who speaks your language:

Staff Name	Language we speak	Phone	Email
Angeline	French, Kirundi, Kinyarwanda, English	0481 838 692	angelinem@eccq.com.au
Christine	Acholi, Juba Arabic, Swahili, English	0479 036 383	christineo@eccq.com.au
Daniel	Dinka, Arabic, Juba Arabic, English	0479 062 234	daniela@eccq.com.au
Evelyn	Burmese, English	0481 827 751	evelynp@eccq.com.au
Iqbal	Dari, English	0403 681 929	iqbalp@eccq.com.au
Lazaro	Swahili, Kirundi, English	0479 153 742	lazarok@eccq.com.au
Samantha	Chinese, English	0479 130 997	chinese@eccq.com.au
Tam	Vietnamese, English	0428 223 052	vietnamese@eccq.com.au

If you live in Cairns, you can also contact:

HIV, Viral Hepatitis, Sexual Health Coordinator

Cairns Sexual Health Service

381 Sheridan St, Cairns North, QLD, 4870

Phone: 07 4226 4760

Further information about telehealth can be found at <http://www.mbsonline.gov.au>.

Updated information about COVID-19 can be found at www.covid19.qld.gov.au

Updated information about how the Australian government helps and supports people during the COVID-19 pandemic can be found at www.australia.gov.au