General Information about Hepatitis B; Prevention and the Vaccine.

1. Mode of transmission: Primary through direct contact with blood or sexual intercourse. It may be present in any body fluids, therefore all body fluids need to be handled carefully.

2. 5% of people who contract Hepatitis become long-term carriers.

3. The virus can live outside the body for 7 days.

4. Hepatitis is an inflammation of the liver. The disease may present without many symptoms, may cause permanent liver damage, and may cause death, and people who contract Hepatitis B could be at a higher risk of developing liver cancer.

5. Persons infected may infect others.

6. There is a vaccine available; a three shot series "thought" to provide life long immunity. It is a three shot series; the second dose is given one month after the first dose and the third dose is given five months after the second.

7. Boulder County Health Department can provide the vaccine. They will provide you with more specific information regarding the side effects and contraindications. The health department staff will be responsible for maintaining your immunization record and sending reminders.

8. The side effects of the Hepatitis B vaccine are considered low and include:
   - allergy is possible
   - sore arm
   - low grade fever