

What is claimed is:

1. An isolated or recombinant antibody or antigen binding fragment thereof, said isolated or recombinant antibody or antigen binding fragment thereof comprising
5 complementarity determining regions (CDRs), the CDRs comprising heavy and light chain amino acid sequences CDR1, CDR2 and CDR3 selected from the antibody heavy and light chain CDRs of Table S2.
2. The recombinant or isolated antibody or antigen binding fragment thereof of claim 1,
10 comprising the heavy and light chain CDR1, CDR2 and CDR3 sequences of antibody H017 from Table S2, or the heavy and light chain CDR1, CDR2 and CDR3 sequences of antibody H019 from Table S2, the heavy and light chain CDR1, CDR2 and CDR3 sequences of antibody H016 from Table S2.
3. The recombinant or isolated antibody or antigen binding fragment thereof of claim 1,
15 comprising the heavy and light chain CDR1, CDR2 and CDR3 sequences of H004 from Table S2, or the heavy and light chain CDR1, CDR2 and CDR3 sequences of H005 from Table S2, or the heavy and light chain CDR1, CDR2 and CDR3 sequences of H008 from Table S2, or the heavy and light chain CDR1, CDR2 and CDR3 sequences of H009 from Table S2.
4. The recombinant or isolated antibody of any one of claims 1–3, comprising at least
20 one modification of its constant region, wherein the modification increases in vivo half-life of the antibody, or alters the ability of the antibody to bind to Fc receptors, or inhibits aggregation of the antibodies, or a combination of said modifications, or wherein the antibody is attached to a detectable label or a substrate.
5. The recombinant or isolated antibody of claim 4, comprising the modification that increases in vivo half-life of the antibody.
- 25 6. The recombinant or isolated antibody of claim 4, comprising the modification that alters the ability of the antibody to bind to Fc receptors.
7. A pharmaceutical composition comprising an antibody or an antigen binding fragment thereof, or a combination of antibodies or antigen binding fragment thereof, of any one of claims 1-3.

8. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 7, comprising the combination of the antibodies.
9. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 8, wherein the combination of the antibodies includes the H017 and H019 antibodies.
- 5 10. The composition of claim 9, wherein the composition further comprises the H016 antibody.
- 10 11. ~~A method for prophylaxis or therapy of a Hepatitis B virus infection comprising administering to an individual in need thereof~~ Use of an effective amount of at least one antibody or antigen binding fragment thereof of any one of claims 1–3, in the manufacture of a medicament for prophylaxis or therapy of a Hepatitis B virus infection, wherein optionally the at least one antibody comprises at least one modification of the constant region.
12. The ~~method~~use of claim 11, wherein ~~the administering comprises administering~~ a combination of antibodies that include the H017 and H019 antibodies is to be administered.
- 15 13. The ~~method~~use of claim 12, wherein ~~the administration further comprises administering~~ the H016 antibody is to be further administered.
14. The ~~method~~use of claim 11, ~~comprising administering wherein~~ a combination of at least two of the antibodies is to be administered, and wherein administering the combination of at the least two antibodies provides a therapeutic and/or prophylactic effect against infection by a hepatitis B virus that comprises one or more escape mutations in at least one of
- 20 14. the HBsAg or the S-protein of the hepatitis B virus.
15. The ~~method~~use of claim 14, wherein the combination of at least two of the antibodies comprises the H017 and H019 antibodies.
16. The ~~method~~use of claim 15, wherein the combination of at least two of the antibodies further comprises the H016 antibody.
- 25 17. One or more recombinant expression vectors encoding the heavy chain and the light chain of any one of the antibodies or antigen binding fragments thereof of any one of claims 1–3.
18. Cells comprising one or more recombinant expression vectors of claim 17.

19. A method comprising culturing cells of claim 18 and separating antibodies from the cells.
20. A kit comprising one or more expression vectors encoding according to claim 17.
21. A method for detecting Hepatitis B virus comprising:
5 contacting a biological sample from an individual with an antibody of any one of claims 1–3, and detecting the presence of a complex comprising the antibody and a Hepatitis B virus protein.
22. A method comprising testing one or more candidate drug agents for the capability to target an antigenic loop region of the hepatitis B virus S-protein by interfering with a
10 complex formed by the peptide and an antibody of any one of claims 1–3.
23. A vaccine comprising at least two non-overlapping epitopes from the Hepatitis B virus S antigen (HBsAg), wherein optionally at least one of the non-overlapping epitopes does not comprise a commonly occurring escape mutation.
24. The vaccine of claim 23, comprising at least three, non-overlapping epitopes from the
15 HBsAg.
25. ~~A method for prophylaxis and/or therapy for Hepatitis B virus infection comprising administering~~ Use of a vaccine of claim 23 ~~to an individual in need thereof in the manufacture of a medicament for prophylaxis and/or therapy for Hepatitis B virus infection.~~
26. The ~~method~~use of claim 25, wherein the ~~administering vaccine~~ comprises at least
20 three, non-overlapping epitopes from the HBsAg.
27. The ~~method~~use of claim 26, wherein the Hepatitis B virus in the individual does not develop Hepatitis B virus comprising escape mutations subsequent to administering the vaccine.