

Hepatitis A

VACCINATION



EDUCATION



HAND WASHING



Hepatitis A is a highly contagious, short-term liver infection caused by the hepatitis A virus.

Getting vaccinated and practicing good hand hygiene are the best ways to protect against hepatitis A.

Anyone who has been exposed or develops symptoms should see a health care provider. People who have hepatitis A should not handle or prepare food for other people or share utensils.

How It Spreads

The hepatitis A virus is found in the stool and blood of people who are infected. The hepatitis A virus is spread when someone ingests the virus (even in amounts too small to see) through:

- Personal contact with someone who has the virus.
- Eating contaminated food or drink.

People can spread the virus to others up to 2 weeks before symptoms appear. Asymptomatic people (those who experience no symptoms) can also spread the virus.

Symptoms:

Not everyone with hepatitis A has symptoms. If symptoms develop, they usually appear within 2-7 weeks. Symptoms usually last less than 2 months, although some people can be ill for as long as 6 months.

Symptoms include but are not limited to yellow skin or eyes, loss of appetite, upset stomach, vomiting, stomach pain, fever, dark urine or light-colored stools, diarrhea, joint pain, and feeling tired.

Those At Increased Risk

Although anyone can get hepatitis A, certain groups are at higher risk of getting or experiencing severe illness from hepatitis A.

People at increased risk for hepatitis A:

- International travelers.
- Men who have sex with men.

- People who use or inject drugs.
- People with occupational risk for exposure.
- People who anticipate close personal contact with an international traveler.
- People experiencing homelessness.

People at increased risk of experiencing severe illness from hepatitis A:

- People with chronic liver disease, including hepatitis B and hepatitis C.
- People living with HIV.

Diagnosis and Treatment:

A health care provider can diagnosis hepatitis A by discussing a person's symptoms and ordering a blood test.

To treat the symptoms, health care providers usually recommend rest, adequate nutrition, and fluids. Some people with severe symptoms may need medical care in a hospital.

Prevention and Vaccination:

Vaccination is the best way to protect against hepatitis A.

Find hepatitis A vaccines by contacting a health care provider, county health department, or pharmacy.

Practicing good hand hygiene is also important to preventing the spread of hepatitis A, including but not limited to thoroughly washing hands after using the bathroom, changing diapers, and before preparing or eating food.

Alcohol-based hand sanitizers do not kill the virus.



Scan the QR code to learn more about hepatitis A and preventive vaccines or visit: [ThePowerToProtect.org/Hepatitis-A](https://www.floridahealth.gov/prevention-control/diseases-and-conditions/hepatitis-a/)

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