



HEPATITIS A

Hepatitis A is a liver disease that spreads easily from person to person. It's caused by a germ called the hepatitis A virus. Some people have mild cases that last a few weeks, but others have more serious cases that can last several months.

HOW IS HEPATITIS A SPREAD?

Hepatitis A spreads when someone eats or drinks something that has a little bit of the virus in it, usually because it was touched by someone who has the disease and didn't know it. Hepatitis A can also spread by:

- Not washing your hands after using the bathroom or changing diapers
- Having sexual contact with infected partner(s)
- Eating or drinking something that has the virus in it

WHO IS MORE LIKELY TO GET HEPATITIS A?

Anyone can get hepatitis A, but you have a higher chance if you:

- Travel or live in countries where hepatitis A is common
- Live with or have direct contact with someone who has hepatitis A
- Are a person without a home
- Use drugs, whether you inject them or not
- Are a man who has sex with other men
- Have sexual contact with someone who has hepatitis A

WHAT ARE THE SYMPTOMS?

Not everyone shows signs of being sick. If you do get sick, the signs usually show 2 to 6 weeks after getting the virus. Symptoms can include:

- Fever
- Vomiting
- Grey stool
- Feeling tired
- Stomach pain
- Joint pain
- Loss of appetite
- Dark urine (pee)
- Nausea
- Yellowing of the skin and eyes

WHO SHOULD GET VACCINATED?

- People who don't have a home
- All children when they turn 1
- People who travel to places where hepatitis A is common
- Family and helpers of children adopted from places where hepatitis A is common
- Men who have sex with other men
- People who use drugs
- People with liver problems or certain blood disorder

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

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HOW IS HEPATITIS A TREATED?

Treatment includes resting, eating well, drinking plenty of fluids, and seeing a doctor regularly. Some people may need to be hospitalized. Most people who get hepatitis A get better without any long-lasting liver problems. If you feel like you might have hepatitis A, it's important to go see a doctor.



HOW CAN HEPATITIS A BE PREVENTED?

The best way to prevent hepatitis A is by getting vaccinated. You'll need 2 injections, 6 months apart. The vaccine is safe and works well. **You can go to your doctor or call the Public Health InfoLine at 833-540-0473, open every day from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. to find a nearby clinic or doctor.** Also, remember to wash your hands with soap and water before eating or making food, and after using the bathroom or changing diapers to keep hepatitis A from spreading.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Los Angeles County Department of Public Health
www.publichealth.lacounty.gov/acd/Diseases/HepA.htm

California Department of Public Health
www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/OVHP.aspx

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/hav/index.htm

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COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
Public Health