Hepatitis A virus is a vaccine-preventable form of infectious hepatitis.

Hepatitis A is contagious & can harm your liver.

Hepatitis A virus is in the poop of people who have the virus. If a person with the virus doesn’t wash his or her hands after going to the bathroom, poop can transfer to people, objects, food and drinks.

Symptoms

You can have hepatitis A for up 2 weeks without feeling sick, but during that time you may be spreading the virus to others.

Symptoms usually start 2–6 weeks after infection and last less than 2 months. Some people can be sick for up to 6 months.

COMMON SYMPTOMS:

- Stomach pain.
- Nausea and vomiting.
- Yellow skin or eyes (jaundice).

OTHER SYMPTOMS:

- Diarrhea.
- Loss of appetite.
- Joint pain.
- Pale or clay colored stool.
- Fever.
- Tired.
- Dark-colored urine.

Prevent the spread of hepatitis A.

Talk to your health care provider about getting vaccinated.

Hepatitis A can spread person-to-person from any sexual activity with a person who has the virus—using a condom will not prevent the virus. People who have the virus should avoid sexual contact, and people who are at-risk should get vaccinated.

Wash your hands after you use the bathroom.

Wash with soap and warm, running water for at least 20 seconds:

BEFORE YOU

- Prepare food.
- Work with food that isn’t already packaged.

AFTER YOU

- Touch people or public surfaces.
- Use the restroom.
- Change a diaper.
- Cough, sneeze or use a handkerchief or tissue.
- Use tobacco, eat or drink.

The hepatitis A vaccine is safe & effective.

- If you’re at risk, you should get vaccinated.
- The vaccine is given as 2 shots, 6 months apart. You need both shots for the vaccine to work long-term.
- Contact your county health department if you don’t have health insurance at this time and you need help getting a vaccination.

DON’T SHARE:

- Towels, toothbrushes or eating utensils.

DON’T TOUCH:

- Food, drinks, drugs or cigarettes that have been handled by a person with hepatitis A.

Stay home from work if you have hepatitis A.

If you have some symptoms and a close friend, relative or roommate who has been diagnosed with hepatitis A in the past 30 days, see a health care provider immediately.

LET YOUR BOSS KNOW IF:

- You’re seeing a health care provider because you have symptoms.
- You’ve seen a health care provider and you have hepatitis A.

Think you’re at risk? See your health care provider.

You’re at risk if you:

- Are in close contact, care for or live with someone who has hepatitis A.
- Have recently visited a country where the virus is common—or been in close contact with someone who has.
- Are having sex with someone who has the virus.
- Are a man who has had sex with other men.
- Use injection or non-injection drugs.
- Are homeless or in temporary housing.
- Have recently been incarcerated.

Your health care provider:

- Will talk to you about your risks and symptoms.
- May take a blood sample to test you for the virus.

If you have hepatitis A, you will need to:

- Get lots of rest.
- Eat healthy food.
- Drink plenty of fluids.
- Keep all medical appointments with your health care provider.

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Have questions? Like to learn more?

Contact the Florida Department of Health’s Hepatitis Section: 850-245-4303 or visit FloridaHealth.gov/HepA.

Learn more: CDC.gov/Hepatitis, Immunize.org/Hepatitis-A

Contact the Florida Department of Health in St. Johns County:

200 San Sebastian View St. Augustine, FL 32084


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