



www.CDC.gov/hepatitis
 August 9, 2007

Hepatitis A Fact Sheet

Description	<p>Hepatitis A is a liver disease caused by the hepatitis A virus. Hepatitis A can affect anyone. In the United States, hepatitis A can occur in situations ranging from isolated cases of disease to widespread epidemics.</p> <p>Good personal hygiene and proper sanitation can help prevent hepatitis A. Vaccines are also available for long-term prevention of hepatitis A virus infection in persons 12 months of age and older. Immune globulin is available for short-term prevention of hepatitis A virus infection in individuals of all ages.</p>			
SIGNS & SYMPTOMS	<p>Adults will have signs and symptoms more often than children.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="396 646 1591 814"> <tr> <td data-bbox="396 646 1078 814"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • jaundice • fatigue • abdominal pain • loss of appetite </td> <td data-bbox="1078 646 1591 814"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • nausea • diarrhea • fever </td> </tr> </table>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • jaundice • fatigue • abdominal pain • loss of appetite 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • nausea • diarrhea • fever
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CAUSE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hepatitis A virus (HAV) 			
LONG-TERM EFFECTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is no chronic (long-term) infection. • Once you have had hepatitis A, you cannot get it again. • About 15% of people infected with HAV will have prolonged or relapsing symptoms over a 6-9 month period. 			
TRANSMISSION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HAV is found in the stool (feces) of persons with hepatitis A. • HAV is usually spread from person to person by putting something in the mouth (even though it might look clean) that has been contaminated with the stool of a person with hepatitis A. 			
PERSONS AT RISK for INFECTION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Household contacts of infected persons • Sex contacts of infected persons • Persons, especially children, living in areas with increased rates of hepatitis A during the baseline period of 1987-1997 			

VACCINE RECOMMENDATIONS	Vaccine is recommended for the following persons from 12 months of age and older: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• All children at age 1 year (i.e., 12–23 months)• Travelers to countries where hepatitis A is common• Men who have sex with men• Users of injection and non-injection drugs•