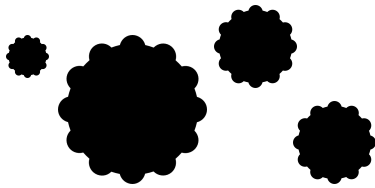


# Hepatitis A

## Fact Sheet



Hepatitis A is a liver disease caused by the hepatitis A virus.



Hepatitis A is spread primarily through contact with the stool of an infected person.

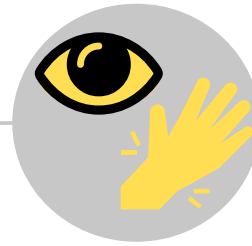
## Common Signs and Symptoms



Fever



Feeling Very Tired



Jaundice or yellowing of skin and/or eyes



Loss of Appetite



Nausea and Vomiting



Stomach Pain



Diarrhea



Dark Urine

Not everyone with hepatitis A has symptoms. Adults are more likely to have symptoms than children. If symptoms develop, they usually appear 2 to 7 weeks after infection.



Talk with a health care provider if you think you have hepatitis A. Hepatitis is diagnosed based on signs and symptoms and confirmed with a blood test. There is no specific treatment, but supportive care is recommended.

# Prevention

Vaccination and hand washing are the most effective ways to prevent hepatitis A.



## Get Vaccinated

The hepatitis A vaccine is recommended for:

- All children aged 12–23 months.
- All children 2-18 needing “catch up” vaccination.
- People at increased risk for hepatitis A.
- People at increased risk for severe disease from hepatitis A infection.



## Wash Your Hands With Soap and Water

- After using the bathroom.
- After changing a diaper.
- Before preparing or eating food.
- Before sharing of drug preparation equipment.

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# Risk Factors

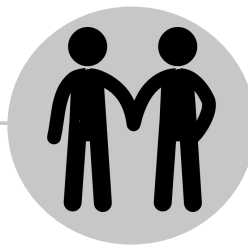
Although anyone can get hepatitis A, some people are at a greater risk, including:



People experiencing homelessness



People who use street drugs (Injection and Non-Injection)



Men who have sex with men



Travelers to countries with high rates of hepatitis A



Using toilet facilities without soap and water

Other individuals at high risk include:

- People who work in a research laboratory setting.
- People who live in congregate settings.
- People who have chronic liver disease including hepatitis C or chronic hepatitis B.
- People with clotting-factor disorders.
- Household members and close contacts of adopted children newly arriving from a country where hepatitis A is common.

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# For More Information, Visit:



1. [www.maine.gov/dhhs/hepatitis](http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/hepatitis)
2. [www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/hav](http://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/hav)

You can also call Maine CDC at 1-800-821-5821.