

# Hepatitis A Outbreak



Hepatitis A is a liver infection caused by the hepatitis A virus. The virus is spreading from person to person and causing outbreaks around the country. It is very contagious among people who are not vaccinated.



## Protect yourself and get vaccinated against hepatitis A

### Who should get vaccinated?

- People who use or inject drugs
- People who have unstable housing or are homeless
- People who are or were recently in jail or prison
- People with liver disease, such as cirrhosis, hepatitis B, or hepatitis C
- Men who have sex with men



## Can hepatitis A be serious?

Hepatitis A can range from a mild illness lasting a few weeks to a severe illness lasting several months. Although uncommon, hepatitis A can cause death. People who are older or have health conditions, including hepatitis C, are at higher risk of dying from hepatitis A.



## Can hepatitis A be prevented?

Yes. The hepatitis A vaccine is safe and effective in preventing a person from getting infected with the hepatitis A virus. People who are at risk for hepatitis A should get vaccinated as soon as possible.



Practice good hand hygiene. Thoroughly washing hands with soap and warm water plays an important role in preventing the spread of many illnesses, including hepatitis A.



## How is hepatitis A spread?

The hepatitis A virus is found in the blood and stool of an infected person and is easily spread from one person to another. In this outbreak, the hepatitis A virus is spreading from person to person, especially among people using drugs, having sex, and living close together.

## What are the symptoms of hepatitis A?

Most adults get symptoms 2 to 7 weeks after exposure to the virus, but some adults do not get any symptoms. People can spread the virus to others even if they do not feel sick. Symptoms can include:



Yellow skin  
or eyes



Feeling  
tired



Loss of  
appetite



Upset  
stomach



Throwing  
up



Stomach  
pain



Dark urine or  
light-colored stools



Joint pain



Fever



Diarrhea

**If you have any of these symptoms, see a health professional.**



## What if you have been exposed to someone with hepatitis A?

If you have been around someone diagnosed with hepatitis A, contact a health professional as soon as possible. Getting the hepatitis A vaccine within 2 weeks after exposure could prevent you from getting sick. After that time, the vaccine does not prevent illness from your recent exposure but can still prevent you from getting hepatitis A in the future.

**If you develop symptoms of hepatitis A, contact a health professional.**



DOH 348-NonDOH July 2019

If you have a disability and need this document in another format, call 1-800-525-0127 (TTY/TDD 711).



U.S. Department of  
Health and Human Services  
Centers for Disease  
Control and Prevention

[www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/HepAOutbreak](http://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/HepAOutbreak)

May 2019