



HEPATITIS A

This page of the information sheet answers questions you may have about hepatitis A and provides information about how vaccination may help protect you, your family, and others from illness.

Hepatitis A is a liver infection that can result in temporary or permanent damage to the liver. Hepatitis A virus is passed in the feces (stool) of an infected person and can be spread from one person to another during close personal contact. Examples include living in the same house with a person who has hepatitis A or having sexual relations with someone who has hepatitis A. Hepatitis A can also be spread by ingesting food or drink contaminated with the hepatitis A virus.

Vaccination is the best way to help prevent hepatitis A infection, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Here are the CDC hepatitis A vaccination recommendations:

Children: The CDC recommends routine hepatitis A vaccination for:

- Children at age 1 year (ie, 12–23 months)
- Unvaccinated children and adolescents ages 2–18 who live in states or communities where routine hepatitis A vaccination has been implemented because of high disease incidence
- Unvaccinated children with increased risk for hepatitis A infection (ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist about the risks)
- Unvaccinated children 2 years of age and older when immunity against hepatitis A virus infection is desired

Adults: The CDC recommends hepatitis A vaccination for unvaccinated:

- People seeking protection from hepatitis A infection
- Men who have sex with men
- People who use injectable or non-injectable illegal drugs
- People working with hepatitis A virus in a laboratory or other research setting
- People with chronic liver disease
- People who receive certain products to treat blood clotting disorders
- People traveling to or working in countries where hepatitis A virus is common
- Household members and other close personal contacts of adopted children newly arriving from countries where hepatitis A is common

Did you know?

Vaccines for hepatitis A and hepatitis B are routinely given to children in the U.S. today, but many adults have not received this protection.

HEPATITIS B

This page of the information sheet answers questions you may have about hepatitis B and provides information about how vaccination may help protect you, your family, and others from illness.

Hepatitis B is a liver infection that can result in temporary or permanent damage to the liver. The most common way that people get infected with the hepatitis B virus in the United States, is through sexual contact with a person infected with hepatitis B. Hepatitis B can also be passed during birth (from an infected mother to her infant) and through sharing of contaminated needles, syringes, or other injection drug equipment and other medical or non-medical needlesticks or other sharp instrument injuries in settings with poor infection control practices.

Vaccination is the best way to prevent hepatitis B infection, according to the CDC.

Here are the CDC hepatitis B vaccination recommendations:

Children: The CDC recommends hepatitis B vaccination for:

- All infants at birth
- Older children who have not previously received the hepatitis B vaccine

Adults: The CDC recommends hepatitis B vaccination for unvaccinated:

- People seeking protection from hepatitis B infection
- Sexually active persons who are not in a long-term, mutually monogamous relationship (for example, having more than 1 sex partner during the previous 6 months)
- People seeking evaluation or treatment of a sexually transmitted disease (STD)
- Current or recent injection drug users
- People with diabetes aged 19 through 59 years of age (if older, speak to your doctor)
- Men who have sex with men
- Healthcare and public safety workers who could be exposed to blood or other infectious body fluids
- People with end-stage renal disease, including predialysis, hemodialysis, peritoneal dialysis, and home dialysis patients
- People with HIV infection
- People with chronic liver disease
- People who live in the same household as and/or have sexual relations with someone with hepatitis B
- Residents and staff of facilities for developmentally disabled persons
- People who travel to places outside of the U.S. where hepatitis B is common
- Adults in the following settings: STD treatment facilities, HIV testing and treatment facilities, facilities providing drug abuse treatment and prevention, healthcare facilities with services for injection drug users or men who have sex with men, correctional facilities (prisons), end-stage renal disease programs and facilities for dialysis, and institutions and nonresidential daycare facilities for people with developmental disabilities

Ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist about vaccination for hepatitis A and/or B today.

Visit HelpPreventDisease.com to learn more!

