

Hepatitis A (HAV)

What is Hepatitis A?

Hepatitis A is a contagious liver disease that is the result of infection with the Hepatitis A virus. It is commonly called “Hep A”. After someone gets Hepatitis A and recovers, he/she is immune for life and does not carry on the virus

Signs and Symptoms

Symptoms can appear from 15-50 days after being exposed, usually between 25-30 days and include:

- Fever
- Fatigue
- Dark urine
- Clay-colored stool
- Abdominal pain
- Loss of appetite
- Nausea and/or vomiting
- Myalgia
- Arthralgia
- Jaundice (yellowing of skin/eyes)

Some adults may be asymptomatic

If you have symptoms, call your healthcare provider

Transmission (How it spreads)

- When hands, food, water or objects become contaminated with infected stool and then get into someone’s mouth (fecal-oral route)

Diagnosis and Treatment

Blood test

There is no specific treatment, but rest and hydration are important.

Prevention:

- Vaccination!
- Good hand hygiene

Who is at Risk?

Everyone can get Hepatitis A, high risk populations include:

- Household contacts of infected persons
- Sexual contacts of infected persons
- Men who have sex with men
- International travelers to countries Hep A is common
- Injecting and non-injecting drug users

If you have symptoms, call your healthcare provider

Report cases to the Riley County Health Department by calling the Disease Investigation
Line: 785-317-0474

For more information, visit:

www.cdc.gov/hepatitis

<http://www.vaccintinformation.org>