

What is Hepatitis A?

It is a virus that attacks the liver. There is no cure, but a vaccine exists to prevent the infection.

How is it spread?

It is spread person to person through consumption of contaminated food or water. It can also be spread when a person ingests the feces of another person. This can happen when an infected person does not wash hands after using the restroom and prepares food that someone else eats.

How do I know if I am infected?

Most people have symptoms that include fatigue, low appetite, stomach pain, nausea, and jaundice. A blood test can detect if you are infected with the virus.

What if I am infected?

Symptoms usually last about 2 months with no long-term problems. Symptoms can come back over a 6 to 9-month period. A small percentage of people can have serious or permanent liver problems. Children under 6 years of age usually do not have symptoms.

How common is it?

In recent years, Hep A infections are rising, with multi-state outbreaks linked to imported and contaminated foods. Some cases occur through travel to another country where the infection is common.

Who is at risk:

People who travel to or adopt children from high risk areas, people with blood clotting disorders, men who have sex with men, users of injection or non-injection drugs, persons with chronic liver problems, persons recently jailed, or homeless people.

Should I get the vaccine?

The vaccine is recommended for all children at one year of age or anyone with the risk factors above. Anyone who wants to protect themselves from Hep A can ask their health care provider for the vaccine.





Please protect yourself and others by staying up to date on all adult vaccines.


Recommended immunization schedule for adults aged 19 years or older by age group, United States, 2018

This figure should be reviewed with the accompanying footnotes. This figure and the footnotes describe indications for which vaccines, if not previously administered, should be administered unless noted otherwise. Footnotes and the recommended immunization schedule for adults aged 19 years or older by medical condition and other indications may be found at www.cdc.gov/vaccines/schedules/hcp/imz/adult.html.

Vaccine	19–21 years	22–26 years	27–49 years	50–64 years	≥65 years
Influenza ¹	1 dose annually				
Tdap ² or Td ²	1 dose Tdap, then Td booster every 10 yrs				
MMR ³	1 or 2 doses depending on indication (if born in 1957 or later)				
VAR ⁴	2 doses				
RZV ⁵ (preferred) or ZVL ⁵				2 doses RZV (preferred) or 1 dose ZVL	
HPV–Female ⁶	2 or 3 doses depending on age at series initiation				
HPV–Male ⁶	2 or 3 doses depending on age at series initiation				
PCV13 ⁷				1 dose	
PPSV23 ⁷	1 or 2 doses depending on indication				1 dose
HepA ⁸	2 or 3 doses depending on vaccine				
HepB ⁹	3 doses				
MenACWY ¹⁰	1 or 2 doses depending on indication, then booster every 5 yrs if risk remains				
MenB ¹⁰	2 or 3 doses depending on vaccine				
Hib ¹¹	1 or 3 doses depending on indication				

 Recommended for adults who meet the age requirement, lack documentation of vaccination, or lack evidence of past infection

 Recommended for adults with other indications

 No recommendation

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