

# Hepatitis A

## Why are we concerned about people having Hepatitis A?

Hepatitis A is a virus that spreads easily and causes a mild to serious illness that can last a few months. There has been an increase in Hepatitis A cases in the United States in the last year. There may be no symptoms or it may cause fever, feeling tired, unsettled stomach, throwing up, belly pain, dark urine, runny or light colored stool (or “poop”), joint pain, and yellowing of your skin or eyes.

## How does Hepatitis A spread?

Hepatitis A spreads when a person who has the infection gets a little poop on an object, food, or drink that someone else uses or eats. It can also be spread during sex with rectum contact.

## Who is at risk for getting Hepatitis A?

If you have never had Hepatitis A or have not been vaccinated against it, you are at risk of getting Hepatitis A. People at greater risk include those who have direct contact with someone who has Hepatitis A, traveling to an area where it is common, or having sex that includes contact with the anus or rectum. People with some blood clotting problems, who work with monkeys, or those who may not have clean water are also at risk.

## How can I prevent Hepatitis A?

Getting two Hepatitis A vaccine shots is the best way to protect you from the infection. Hand washing or using hand sanitizer is important and will help protect .

## Who should be vaccinated?

Anyone who wants protection from Hepatitis A should be vaccinated.



**For more information:** [www.CDC.gov/hepatitis](http://www.CDC.gov/hepatitis) or call your local health department.



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