Hepatitis A is a vaccine-preventable form of infectious hepatitis.

Hepatitis A virus is in the poop of people who have the virus. If a person with the virus doesn’t wash his or her hands after going to the bathroom, poop can transfer to people, objects, food and drinks.

Symptoms

You can have hepatitis A for up to 2 weeks without feeling sick, but during that time you may be spreading the virus to others. Symptoms usually start 2–6 weeks after infection and last less than 2 months. Some people can be sick for up to 6 months.

COMMON SYMPTOMS:
- Stomach pain.
- Nausea and vomiting.
- Yellow skin or eyes (jaundice).

OTHER SYMPTOMS:
- Diarrhea.
- Loss of appetite.
- Joint pain.
- Pale or clay colored stool.
- Fever.
- Tired.
- Dark-colored urine.

Think you’re at risk? See your health care provider.

You’re at risk if you:
- Are in close contact, care for or live with someone who has hepatitis A.
- Have recently visited a country where the virus is common—or been in close contact with someone who has.
- Are having sex with someone who has the virus.
- Use injection or non-injection drugs.
- Are homeless or in temporary housing.
- Have recently been incarcerated.

Your health care provider:
- Will talk to you about your risks and symptoms.
- May take a blood sample to test you for the virus.

If you have hepatitis A, you will need to:
- Get lots of rest.
- Eat healthy food.
- Drink plenty of fluids.
- Keep all medical appointments with your health care provider.

Stay home from work if you have hepatitis A.

If you have some symptoms and a close friend, relative or roommate who has been diagnosed with hepatitis A in the past 30 days, see a health care provider immediately.

LET YOUR BOSS KNOW IF:
- You’re seeing a health care provider because you have symptoms.
- You’ve seen a health care provider and you have hepatitis A.

Prevent the spread of hepatitis A.

Talk to your health care provider about getting vaccinated.

Wash your hands after you use the bathroom.

Wash with soap and warm, running water for at least 20 seconds:

BEFORE YOU
- Prepare food.
- Work with food that isn’t already packaged.

AFTER YOU
- Touch people or public surfaces.
- Use the restroom.
- Change a diaper.
- Cough, sneeze or use a handkerchief or tissue.
- Use tobacco, eat or drink.

The hepatitis A vaccine is safe & effective.

- If you’re at risk, you should get vaccinated.
- The vaccine is given as 2 shots, 6 months apart. You need both shots for the vaccine to work long-term.
- Contact your county health department if you don’t have health insurance at this time and you need help getting a vaccination.

Have questions? Like to learn more?

For more information, call the hepatitis A information line, Mon.–Fri., 8 a.m.–5 p.m., toll free: 1-844-CALL-DOH (844-225-5364). Email: HepA@flhealth.gov.

Learn more: FloridaHealth.gov/HepA, CDC.gov/Hepatitis or Immunize.org/Hepatitis-A.