



HEPATITIS A

What is Hepatitis A?

- Hepatitis A is an infection of the liver caused by the Hepatitis A virus

What are symptoms that could occur?

- Adults will have symptoms more often than children
- Loss of appetite
- Abdominal pain
- Fatigue
- Nausea/diarrhea
- Swelling and tenderness of the liver
- Yellowing of skin and eyes
- Dark urine, clay-colored (gray) bowel movements

How is it spread?

- Spread from person to person by hands or food/drink contaminated with feces
- Outbreaks are due to water or food contaminated with feces, such as raw shellfish, mostly oysters, or food not cooked long enough at the correct temperature
- Incubation period is 15-50 days with an average of 30 days

How is it diagnosed and treated?

- Primary care provider evaluation and laboratory testing
- Treatment is aimed at relief of symptoms

How can Hepatitis A be prevented?

- Hepatitis A vaccine is an effective prevention
- If given before or within 2 weeks of exposure, Immune globulin is short term effective in prevention of disease
- Wash hands with soap and water after using the restroom, changing a diaper or when preparing food and before eating.

Should the sick child be isolated?

- The infected person should be kept away from other people
- **Immediately notify** the Health Department at **257-1017**

When can the child return to day care or school?

- With written approval from physician including statement on any limitation of activity

Genesee County Health Department
630 S. Saginaw Street
Flint, Michigan 48502
www.gchd.us

Should schools do special cleaning?

- Special cleaning is not necessary. Routine cleaning with EPA approved products is recommended.

If I have any other questions, whom can I contact?

- Call the Genesee County Health Department at 257-3612

This fact sheet is for information only and is not meant to be used for self diagnosis or as a substitute for consultation with a health care provider. For more information, call your health care provider.

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