HEPATITIS A

WHAT IS HEPATITIS A VIRUS (HAV)?

Hepatitis means inflammation of the liver. When the liver is inflamed or damaged, its function can be affected. Hepatitis A (HAV) is a vaccine-preventable liver infection caused by the hepatitis A virus.



HOW IS HEPATITIS A TRANSMITTED?

HAV is found in the stool and blood of people who are infected. Hepatitis A is very contagious. It is spread when someone unknowingly ingests the virus — even in microscopic amounts through close personal contact with an infected person or through eating contaminated food or drink.

The importance of knowing more

Learn about hepatitis A.



School of Public Health

Southwest Center for Occupational and Environmental Health

WHAT ARE HEPATITIS A SYMPTOMS?

Symptoms of hepatitis A can last up to 2 months and include fatigue, nausea, stomach pain, and jaundice. Most people with hepatitis A do not have long-lasting illness.

HOW IS HEPATITIS A DIAGNOSED?

A doctor can determine if you have hepatitis A by discussing your symptoms and ordering a blood test that can tell whether you have been recently infected with the virus that causes hepatitis A.

HOW IS HEPATITIS A TREATED?

Doctors usually recommend rest, adequate nutrition, and fluids to treat symptoms. Some people with severe symptoms will need medical care in a hospital.

HOW TO PREVENT HEPATITIS A?

The best way to prevent hepatitis A is through vaccination with the hepatitis A vaccine. To get the full benefit of the hepatitis A vaccine, more than one shot is needed.