

# Hepatitis A is a serious disease...

## Make sure your child is protected!

### What is hepatitis A?

Hepatitis A is a serious liver disease caused by a virus. The virus is found in the feces (poop) of infected people.

### How do you catch hepatitis A?

The hepatitis A virus is spread when invisible particles of feces (poop) get into a person's mouth. Your child can get hepatitis A by eating contaminated food or drinking contaminated water, or just by living with an infected person.



### Is hepatitis A serious?

Yes. Hepatitis A can make a child's skin and eyes turn yellow. Your child can get very sick for weeks, need to be hospitalized, and even die. Some people don't look or feel sick, but they can still spread hepatitis A to others.

### Is my child at risk?

Everyone is at some risk for getting infected with hepatitis A. People who travel outside the U.S. have an increased chance of getting infected.

### How can I protect my child from hepatitis A?

Vaccination is the best way to protect your child from hepatitis A. Young children should get 2 doses of the hepatitis A vaccine 6 months apart as part of their regular checkups. The first dose is given at 1 year of age.

Ask your child's healthcare provider if your child is up to date for all vaccines!



Ask your healthcare provider if your older child or teen should receive hepatitis A vaccine.

► For more information, visit [www.vaccineinformation.org](http://www.vaccineinformation.org)

For other vaccine handouts in this series, visit [www.immunize.org/vaccine-summaries](http://www.immunize.org/vaccine-summaries)

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