



CCDPH is an affiliate of Cook County Health.

Cook County DEPT. of Public Health

Promoting health. Preventing disease. Protecting you.

About Hepatitis A

A serious liver disease

What is Hepatitis A?

Hepatitis A is a highly contagious liver infection found in the feces (poop) of infected people. Most adults with Hepatitis A feel sick for a few months and usually recover completely without lasting liver damage. Although rare, Hepatitis A can cause liver failure and death.

Things that put you at risk



Not washing hands



Sex with an infected partner



Eating or drinking contaminated food



Recreational drug use



Are you at high risk for infection?

You are more likely to become infected with Hepatitis A if you:

- Use drugs (IV, non-IV)
- Are homeless or live in transient housing
- Are a man who has sex with men (MSM), gay, bisexual
- Were recently incarcerated
- Have close contact with an infected person

Help prevent the spread of Hepatitis A

States bordering Illinois and across the country are experiencing Hepatitis A outbreaks. To prevent an outbreak of Hepatitis A in Illinois:

Get vaccinated. Vaccination is the best way to prevent Hepatitis A. Talk to your healthcare provider to get the two doses you need for protection. Personal information is not required.

Wash hands. Use soap and warm water to wash hands after using the bathroom, changing a diaper, or before preparing food.

Visit www.cookcountypublichealth.org for more information about the signs and symptoms of Hepatitis A and to find vaccine near you.