

# Hepatitis A Vaccine

**Hepatitis A** virus can cause serious liver disease. **Hepatitis A** is found all over the world. It is common in countries with poor sanitary conditions. **Hepatitis A** is contagious.

You can get **Hepatitis A** by close contact with someone who has it. You can get it by eating food prepared by someone with **Hepatitis A**. You can also get **Hepatitis A** by drinking dirty water that contains the virus.



Everyone, especially people with **Hepatitis A** should clean their hands often with soap and water. Always clean after using the restroom or changing a diaper. Clean your hands before eating or preparing food. You can also get **Hepatitis A** by drinking water that contains the virus.

There is a safe vaccine to help prevent **Hepatitis A**. You will not get **Hepatitis A** from the vaccine.

Talk with your primary care provider about getting the **Hepatitis A** vaccine if:

- You are planning to travel to a country where many people have **Hepatitis A**
- You have been told that you have chronic liver disease, including infection with Hepatitis B or Hepatitis C
- You use illegal drugs
- You are a man who has sex with men
- You have a blood clotting-factor disorder

You will need to get a total of two shots. You should get the second shot 6 months to 12 months after the first one. After each shot, you may have some soreness where the needle went in. You may also feel tired or have a headache.