

Hepatitis: Type A

(caused by hepatitis A virus)

SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS

- Fever
- Loss of appetite
- Abdominal discomfort
- Yellow eyes and skin
- Dark urine or light-color stool
- Nausea or vomiting
- Fatigue
- Begin 15-50 days after exposure

TRANSMISSION

Hepatitis A is spread by:

- Fecal-oral transmission (food-borne transmission)
- Oral sex
- Finger/anal sex

COMPLICATIONS

- Hepatitis A can spread to sex partners
- Hepatitis A causes no long-term liver damage and usually does not cause death.
- There is no chronic carrier state.
- Having had the disease produces lifelong immunity against re-infection.

PREVENTION

- Wash hands after bowel movement.
- Avoid oral/anal and finger/anal sex.
- Hepatitis A vaccine is recommended for all children over 12 months of age, adolescents and sexually active adults.
- Immune globulin injection may be given within 14 days of exposure.

TESTING AND TREATMENT

- Get a test from a medical provider if infection is suspected.
- There is no effective treatment to shorten course of acute infection.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

Minnesota Department of Health
STD and HIV Section
(651) 201-5414; (651) 201-5797 TTY
www.health.state.mn.us/std

Minnesota Family Planning and STD Hotline
1-800-783-2287 Voice/TTY; (651) 645-9360 (Metro)
www.sexualhealthmn.org

American Social Health Association (ASHA)
www.ashastd.org

CDC National STD and AIDS Hotlines
1-800-CDC-INFO; 1-888-232-6348 TTY
www.cdc.gov/std