



# Hepatitis A Virus (HAV)

## Alert for Health Care Providers

Florida Department of Health • FloridaHealth.gov

### Protect

#### Vaccinate high-risk patients.

The HAV vaccine is given as 2 shots, 6 months apart. Patients will need both shots for the vaccine to work long-term.

**Diagnosis** is with confirmation of a serum IGM test. Report HAV cases to your CHD.

**Treatment** is supportive.

**Prevention** is through vaccination of at risk individuals.



### Is Your Patient at High Risk for HAV?

#### At-risk people:

- Are in close contact, care for or live with someone who has HAV.
- Use injection or non-injection drugs.
- Are homeless or in temporary housing.
- Have recently been incarcerated.
- Are men who have had sex with other men.
- Have recently visited a country where HAV is common.
- Are having sex with someone who has HAV.



#### Symptoms:

- Stomach pain
- Nausea and vomiting
- Jaundice
- Diarrhea
- Loss of appetite
- Joint pain
- Pale or clay colored stool
- Fever
- Tired
- Dark-colored urine

### Educate Patients

#### HAV:

- Spreads person-to-person from ingesting small amounts of fecal matter from a person with HAV.
- Sexual activity can spread HAV.
- People who are sick with HAV should avoid sexual contact.
- People who are at-risk should get vaccinated.

#### Wash hands with soap and warm water for at least 20 seconds:

##### BEFORE THEY

- Prepare food, or work with food that isn't already packaged.

##### AFTER THEY

- Use the restroom.
- Change a diaper.
- Cough, sneeze or use a handkerchief or tissue.



**ALCOHOL-BASED HAND SANITIZERS DON'T KILL HAV GERMS!**

#### Do not:

##### SHARE

Towels, toothbrushes or eating utensils.

##### TOUCH

Food, drinks, drugs or cigarettes that have been handled by a person with HAV.

**Share the need for vaccination with anyone you know who might be at risk.**

### Have questions? Like to learn more?

For more information, call the hepatitis A information line, Mon.–Fri., 8 a.m.–5p.m, toll free: 1-844-CALL-DOH (844-225-5364).

Email: HepA@flhealth.gov.

Learn more:  
[FloridaHealth.gov/HepA](http://FloridaHealth.gov/HepA)  
[CDC.gov/Hepatitis](http://CDC.gov/Hepatitis)  
[Immunize.org/Hepatitis-A](http://Immunize.org/Hepatitis-A)

