

# MDHHS Hepatitis A Guidance: Hospital Emergency Departments



[www.mi.gov/hepatitisAoutbreak](http://www.mi.gov/hepatitisAoutbreak)

## What is hepatitis A?

Hepatitis A is a highly contagious, vaccine-preventable liver infection. The infection spreads from person-to-person through ingestion of food, water, or oral contact with objects (including hands) contaminated by feces of an HAV-infected individual. Transmission occurs easily among sexual contacts and close household contacts, as well as among persons sharing needles and non-injection drugs. The incubation period can be 15 - 50 days.

## Screen patients at risk:

- Men who have sex with men (MSM)
- Persons with a history of substance abuse
- Persons currently homeless or in transient living
- Correctional facility inmates
- Persons with underlying liver disease\*

## Hepatitis A Southeast Michigan Outbreak



About **85%** of infected persons require hospitalization.

About **1** out of **4** cases are co-infected with hepatitis C\*



\*Note: persons with underlying liver disease (e.g., cirrhosis, hepatitis B, or hepatitis C) are at increased risk of having poor outcomes if they are infected with hepatitis A.



## What are the symptoms of hepatitis A?

Jaundice and/or elevated serum aminotransferase (ALT) levels and any of the following symptoms:

- Nausea or vomiting
- Abdominal pain
- Fever
- Loss of appetite
- Fatigue / tired
- Jaundice (yellowing of the skin or eyes)
- Dark urine, pale stools, or diarrhea



**Report** all confirmed or suspected hepatitis A cases to your local health department or by electronically entering the case in the Michigan Disease Surveillance System (MDSS) within **12** hours.



**Prevent** hepatitis A through vaccination, standard precautions and proper handwashing.

**Promote** vaccination for those exposed and anyone in a risk group.

Food handlers and healthcare workers may also be prioritized to receive vaccine.