

Your child may have been exposed to:

Hepatitis A

Hepatitis A is a viral infection of the liver.

If you think your child has Hepatitis A:

- Tell your childcare provider or call the school.
- **Need to stay home?**

Childcare and School:

Consult with your local or state health department. Each situation must be looked at individually to decide if the person with hepatitis A can spread the virus to others.

Symptoms

Your child may suddenly have a fever and may be tired and not want to eat.

A few days later, your child may have urine that is as dark as tea or cola. Stools may be white or gray-colored. Your child may appear jaundiced (yellowing of eyes or skin).

If your child is infected, it may take 15 to 50 days for symptoms to start. It usually takes 28 days.

Spread

- By eating or drinking contaminated food or water.
- By touching contaminated hands, surfaces, or objects.

Contagious Period

From 2 weeks before to 2 weeks after symptoms start.

Call your Healthcare Provider

If someone in your home:

- ◆ has symptoms of hepatitis A. Blood tests can be done. No specific treatment is given.
- ◆ has been exposed to hepatitis A.

Prevention

- Wash hands after using the toilet and changing diapers and before preparing food or eating. Your child may need help with handwashing.
- Clean and disinfect anything contaminated with stool. This includes toilets (potty chairs), sinks, toys, and diaper changing areas. Use a product that kills germs.
- Ask your healthcare provider about hepatitis A vaccine. Hepatitis A vaccine is recommended for all children 12-23 months of age and should be considered for groups at increased risk of hepatitis A.

For more information, call Hennepin County HSPHD-Epidemiology at 612-543-5230 or call your local health department.