

Hepatitis A

HA / Hep A Vaccine



Don't Wait, Vaccinate!

This vaccine protects against hepatitis A and its complications. Hepatitis A is a liver infection caused by the hepatitis A virus.

| Diseases | Hepatitis A is spread by: | Symptoms: | Possible complications: |
|----------|---|--|--|
| | Contact with water or food contaminated by the stool of an infected person. Young children with hep A may not have symptoms but can still pass the disease to those around them. | Loss of appetite Nausea Fatigue Fever Jaundice | Serious liver disease Death (risk increases with age) |

Vaccination is the best way to protect against hepatitis A and its complications. The vaccine is recommended for those who want to reduce their risk of catching hepatitis A. More than one vaccine dose is needed to ensure the best protection possible. Hepatitis A vaccine is provided free of charge to persons in specific high risk groups. Others may purchase the vaccine. This vaccine is not given to infants less than 12 months of age.

The hepatitis A vaccine is safe. In most cases, it does not cause undesirable reactions. Inform your health care provider if you, or the person receiving the vaccine, has an allergy or has experienced a reaction to any vaccine, foods, or latex in the past. The hepatitis A vaccine should not be given if the person has:

- Had a severe reaction to the hepatitis A vaccine or another vaccine in the past
- An allergy to neomycin (an antibiotic)

| Vaccine | Possible side effects: | What to do: |
|---------|---|---|
| | Most common side effect is redness and tenderness around the injection site. | Apply a cold, damp cloth to the area. |
| | May run a mild fever. May experience headache, digestive problems, or fatigue. | See a health care provider if symptoms are serious. |
| | Severe allergic reactions are very rare. Most severe reactions occur shortly after receiving the vaccine. | It is important to wait for 15 minutes observation after the injection before leaving the clinic. Seek immediate medical attention if experiencing a severe reaction. |

For more information go to:

www.immunize.ca

www.healthcanada.gc.ca/vaccinate

www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/immunization

<https://www.canada.ca/en/indigenous-services-canada/services/first-nations-inuit-health/family-health/immunization.html>