

HEPATITIS A VACCINE

The hepatitis A vaccine protects your child from the hepatitis A virus that causes liver infection. (1)

The hepatitis A virus is passed from person to person, or in contaminated food and water. It may cause fever, fatigue, loss of appetite, nausea, vomiting, severe stomach pains, diarrhea, joint pains, and jaundice that can last from 2-6 months. Severe illness can cause liver failure and death. (1)



Children may not have symptoms, but they can spread the infection. Hepatitis A outbreaks are best controlled in places where children are routinely vaccinated. (1,2)

Babies with hepatitis A virus excrete the virus in their stools. Adults changing contaminated diapers are likely to be infected without proper hand washing. (2)



Doctors recommend 2 doses given at least 6 months apart to provide long-lasting protection. (1)

Possible side effects are soreness or redness where the shot was given, low-grade fever, headache, or tiredness. (1)



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1) American Academy of Pediatrics: <https://www.healthychildren.org/English/safety-prevention/immunizations/Pages/Hepatitis-A-Vaccine-What-You-Need-to-Know.aspx>
2) Children's Hospital of Philadelphia: <https://www.chop.edu/centers-programs/vaccine-education-center/vaccine-details/hepatitis-a-vaccine>