

# Hepatitis A-Quick Guide

## General/Diagnosis

A reportable disease of the liver caused by hepatitis A virus. Diagnosis: detection of HAV-specific Immunoglobulin G (IgM) antibodies in the blood.

## Symptoms

Yellow skin or eyes	Loss of appetite	Pale stools
Tiredness	Nausea	Dark urine
Stomach ache		

## How long does hepatitis A virus survive outside the body?

The virus can survive outside the body for months. Boiling or cooking food for at least **1 minute** at 185°F (85°C), kill the virus. **Freezing temperatures do not kill the virus.**

## Transmission

*Most often:* spread by the fecal-oral route (An object contaminated with the stool can spread)

*Less often:* spread by swallowing food or water that contains the virus

Incubation: 14-28 days

## Who Needs to be Vaccinated?

- All children at 1 year
- You live in a community with a high rate of hepatitis A.
- You are homeless.
- You are a man and have sex with other men.
- You use street drugs.
- You work or travel to countries with high rates of hepatitis A.
- You have long-term liver disease.
- You receive blood products to help your blood clot.

CDC <https://www.cdc.gov/>