

Hepatitis A

HEALTH WARNING FOR PEOPLE LIVING HOMELESS

WHAT IS HEPATITIS A?

Hepatitis A (Hep A) is a virus that spreads easily. Many people don't know that they have Hep A so they spread it without knowing.

It can cause severe liver disease that can last for months.

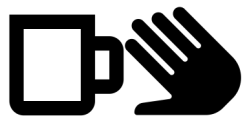
Sometimes people die from Hep A.

Hep A has been spreading in people living homeless in the U.S.

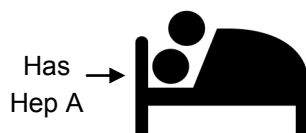


HOW DOES IT SPREAD?

Hep A is in the poop of someone with Hep A. If they haven't washed their hands after using the toilet, tiny bits of poop can get on things they touch. Hep A spreads from:



Touching objects or eating food that someone with Hep A handled



Having sex with someone who has Hep A



Sharing needles, pipes, or other items to take drugs



Wash your hands with soap and water after using the toilet, and before you cook or eat! Soap and water work best, but if they aren't available, use alcohol-based hand gel.

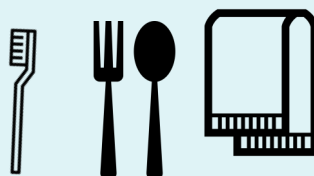
HOW CAN YOU PREVENT HEP A?



Don't share food, drinks, needles, or smokes with other people.



Don't have sex with someone who has Hep A.



Use your own towels, toothbrush and utensils.

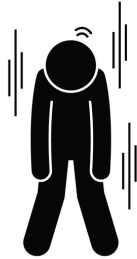


Get 2 shots of Hep A vaccine.

SYMPTOMS OF HEP A



Fever



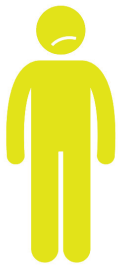
Fatigue



Nausea



No appetite



Jaundice
(yellowing of eyes & skin)



Stomach
pain



Vomiting



Dark pee, pale
poop, and
diarrhea

Some people with Hep A don't have any symptoms.

WHEN TO GET MEDICAL HELP

If you think you might have Hep A, see your doctor or go to the Emergency Room.

Get Hep A shots from your doctor or clinic to prevent getting Hep A. Most pharmacies offer the Hep A shots if you have an insurance card.

More information from Healthcare for the Homeless Network:
www.kingcounty.gov/hch

Thanks to San Diego Health and Human Services for adaptation of their materials.

Public Health
Seattle & King County 