



Hepatitis A Vaccine

What you need to know about Hepatitis A

Hepatitis A vaccine can prevent **hepatitis A**.

Hepatitis A is a serious liver disease that is highly contagious.

- It is usually spread through close, personal contact with an infected person or when a person unknowingly ingests the virus from objects, food, or drinks that are contaminated by small amounts of stool (poop) from an infected person.
- Most adults with hepatitis A have symptoms, including fatigue, low appetite, stomach pain, nausea, and jaundice (yellow skin or eyes, dark urine, light-colored bowel movements).
- Symptoms can last up to 2 months
- Most children less than 6 years of age do not have symptoms.
- A person infected with hepatitis A can transmit the disease to other people even if he or she does not have any symptoms of the disease.
- Most people who get hepatitis A feel sick for several weeks, but they usually recover completely and do not have lasting liver damage. In rare cases, hepatitis A can cause liver failure and death; this is more common in people older than 50 years and in people with other liver diseases.
- Hepatitis A vaccine has made this disease much less common in the United States. However, outbreaks of hepatitis A among unvaccinated people still happen.

Hepatitis A vaccine is a 2-dose vaccine.

- First dose: 12 through 23 months of age
- Second dose: at least 6 months after the first dose



Infants 6 through 11 months old

traveling outside the United States when protection against hepatitis A is recommended should receive 1 dose of hepatitis A vaccine. These children should still get 2 additional doses at the recommended ages for long-lasting protection.



Older children and adolescents 2 through 18 years of age who were not vaccinated previously should be vaccinated.



Adults who were not vaccinated previously and want to be protected against hepatitis A can also get the vaccine. If a person is not vaccinated and has direct contact with someone with hepatitis A, they should get the hepatitis A vaccine as soon as possible and within 2 weeks of exposure.



Data Sourced from CDC, PA-AAP Report on 2021 SILR Data



Hepatitis A vaccine may be given at the same time as other vaccines. Ask your health care provider what other vaccines your child will receive at their well visit to be prepared.



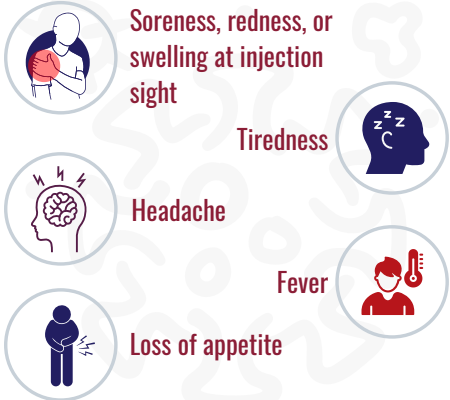
Pennsylvania Chapter

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WHAT TO EXPECT AFTER VACCINATION

It's normal to experience immune response after vaccination, this is how you know the vaccine is doing its job. These side effects are usually mild and disappear on their own in a few days. Some normal immune responses for DTaP vaccine include:



Tell your vaccination provider if the person getting the vaccine:

- Has had **an allergic reaction after a previous dose of hepatitis A vaccine**, or has **any severe, life-threatening allergies**
- In some cases, your health care provider may decide to postpone hepatitis A vaccination until a future visit.
- Pregnant or breastfeeding people should be vaccinated if they are at risk for getting hepatitis A. Pregnancy or breastfeeding are not reasons to avoid hepatitis A vaccination.
- People with minor illnesses, such as a cold, may be vaccinated. People who are moderately or severely ill should usually wait until they recover before getting hepatitis A vaccine.

People sometimes faint after medical procedures, including vaccination. Tell your provider if you feel dizzy or have vision changes or ringing in the ears.

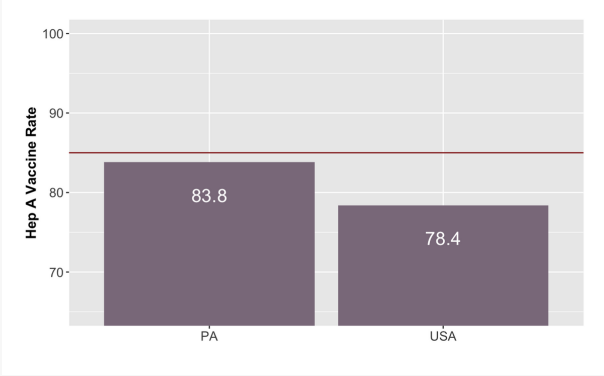
As with any medicine, there is a very remote chance of a vaccine causing a severe allergic reaction, other serious injury, or death.

Hepatitis A Vaccination Rates

The Healthy People 2020 goal for vaccination coverage is **85%** for the hepatitis A vaccine among children by age 19 to 35 months

*Pennsylvania and national data are estimates measured by the National Immunization Survey-Child completed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Percentage of Children 35 months old who had received 2 doses of the Hep A vaccine in 2018 in PA and USA*



Scan the QR code to connect with the Pennsylvania Immunization Coalition or a local coalition near you!



For more vaccine information go to: immunizepa.org