

# HEPATITIS A IS SPREADING

Always wash your hands!  
Especially after eating,  
using the restroom, and  
before preparing food



Hepatitis A is a potentially life-threatening liver disease caused by a virus found in feces (poop) of infected people. It can easily spread from person-to-person and symptoms can last a few weeks to many months.

## How is it spread?



Touching an object someone with hepatitis A has handled

Having sex with someone who has hepatitis A



Eating food contaminated with hepatitis A

### How can you prevent hepatitis A?

- Get the Hepatitis A vaccine
- Don't have sex with someone who has hepatitis A
- Use your own towels, toothbrushes, and eating utensils
- Don't share food, drinks, or smokes with other people

## What are the symptoms?

Fever



Nausea/Vomiting

Loss of appetite



Jaundice (yellow eyes/skin)



Fatigue



Stomach pain

Dark pee, pale poop, or diarrhea



## What to do if you suspect hepatitis A?

### Food Service Worker

- Wear gloves when handling food
- If you have symptoms, **DO NOT GO TO WORK, GO TO THE DOCTOR**
- Tell your manager right away

### Medical Provider if you suspect your patient has hepatitis A

- Run hepatitis A IgM antibody test
- Collect an extra tube of blood (red top) for public health. Spin it, and store frozen. If hepatitis A IgM is positive, your health department will provide instructions for molecular testing
- Complete acute hepatitis A questionnaire with patient
- Report cases of hepatitis A to (270) 781-8039 EXT. 126 or 183

## You are more likely to be infected if you:

- use drugs (injection, non-injection, or marijuana)
- have sex with an infected person
- live with or have close contact with an infected person
- touch or eat food or drink that someone with hepatitis A has handled

**Call (270) 781-8039 for more information!**