Hepatitis A
Fact Sheet

www.cdc.gov/hepatitis
1-888-4HEP-CDC

CDC
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

SIGNS & SYMPTOMS	▪ jaundice ▪ fatigue ▪ abdominal pain ▪ loss of appetite ▪ nausea ▪ diarrhea ▪ fever Adults will have signs and symptoms more often than children.
CAUSE	Hepatitis A Virus (HAV)
LONG-TERM EFFECTS	▪ There is no chronic (long-term) infection. ▪ Once you have had hepatitis A you cannot get it again. ▪ About 15% of people infected with HAV will have prolonged or relapsing symptoms over a 6-9 month period.
TRANSMISSION	▪ HAV is found in the stool (feces) of persons with hepatitis A. ▪ HAV is usually spread from person to person by putting something in the mouth (even though it may look clean) that has been contaminated with the stool of a person with hepatitis A.
PERSONS AT RISK OF INFECTION	▪ Household contacts of infected persons. ▪ Sex contacts of infected persons. ▪ Persons, especially children, living in areas with increased rates of hepatitis A during the baseline period from 1987-1997. ▪ Persons traveling to countries where hepatitis A is common. ▪ Men who have sex with men. ▪ Injecting and non-injecting drug users.
PREVENTION	▪ Hepatitis A vaccine is the best protection. ▪ Short-term protection against hepatitis A is available from immune globulin. It can be given before and within 2 weeks after coming in contact with HAV. ▪ Always wash your hands with soap and water after using the bathroom, changing a diaper, and before preparing and eating food.
VACCINE RECOMMENDATIONS	Vaccine is recommended for the following persons 2 years of age and older: ▪ Travelers to areas with increased rates of hepatitis A ▪ Men who have sex with men ▪ Injecting and non-injecting drug users ▪ Persons with clotting-factor disorders (e.g. hemophilia) ▪ Persons with chronic liver disease ▪ Children living in areas with increased rates of hepatitis A during the baseline period from 1987-1997.
TRENDS & STATISTICS	▪ Occurs in epidemics both nationwide and in communities. ▪ During epidemic years, the number of reported cases reached 35,000. ▪ In the late 1990s, hepatitis A vaccine was more widely used and the number of cases reached historic lows. ▪ One-third of Americans had evidence of past infection (immunity).