

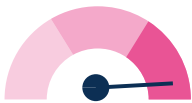
UNDERSTANDING THE RISKS

Getting Hepatitis A vs. Getting Vaccinated



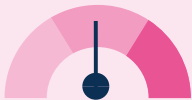
We all want to make the best health choices for our children. So how risky is hepatitis A compared to the vaccine that prevents hepatitis A?

HEPATITIS A FAST FACTS



HOW CONTAGIOUS?

Very contagious. A child can get hepatitis A through close contact with someone who has it or by eating or drinking something contaminated with hepatitis A.^{1,2,3}



HOW SERIOUS?

Typically moderate.
But serious complications can include:

Jaundice: 1 in 10 children under the age of 6^{2,3}

Hospitalization: 61% of people across multi-state outbreaks⁴

Liver transplant: 14% of children⁵



Someone with hepatitis A may feel sick for several months but will usually recover. Rare but serious complications include liver failure and death. This is more common in older people and people with serious health issues.^{1,2,6,7}

Children often have no symptoms but can still spread hepatitis A.^{3,6}

VACCINE FAST FACTS



HOW EFFECTIVE?

The vaccine is around 94%–100% effective at preventing hepatitis A and providing long-lasting protection.^{1,4}



HOW SAFE?

Millions of people have safely gotten the hepatitis A vaccine.^{1,8}



SAFETY RECORDS

The hepatitis A vaccine has been safely used since 1995.^{1,8}



MYTH BUSTER

Are children at risk of hepatitis A? Yes. Outbreaks are increasing in the United States, and your child's close contacts may not even know that they have hepatitis A.^{6,9}



Five separate safety systems continuously monitor all vaccines for as long as the vaccines are given.¹¹

Learn more at hhs.gov/immunization/basics/safety/index.html.

COMPARING THE TWO

HEPATITIS A	VACCINE TO PREVENT HEPATITIS A
Common Mild to Moderate Symptoms and Common Side Effects^{1,2,5,7,11,12}	
<p>Common symptoms of hepatitis A last for several months and can include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Jaundice• Loss of appetite• Nausea• Vomiting• Fever• Joint and stomach pain• Fatigue• Dark pee or clay-colored poop	<p>Common side effects of the vaccine to prevent hepatitis A are usually mild and last 2–3 days. If side effects occur, they can include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Soreness or redness where the vaccine was given• Mild fever• Headache• Feeling tired

Rare, More Serious Symptoms or Complications and Rare Side Effects^{1,2,5,13,14}

Serious symptoms or complications of hepatitis A vary and can include:

- Liver failure

Serious side effects of the vaccine to prevent hepatitis A vary and can include:

- Severe allergic reaction (generally, for every 1 million vaccines administered in the United States, only about 1–2 doses results in a severe allergic reaction)

Sources:

1. Immunize.org: <https://www.immunize.org/wp-content/uploads/catg.d/p4204.pdf>
2. World Health Organization: <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/hepatitis-a>
3. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC): <https://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis-a/hcp/clinical-overview>
4. CDC: <https://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/outbreaks/ongoing-hepatitis-a>
5. Yale Medicine: <https://www.yalemedicine.org/news/hepatitis-in-children>
6. CDC: <https://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis-a/about>
7. CDC: <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/current-vis/hepatitis-a.html>
8. CDC: <https://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis-a/vaccination/index.html>
9. CDC: <https://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis-a/outbreaks/ongoing>
10. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS): <https://www.hhs.gov/immunization/basics/safety/index.html>
11. Children's Hospital of Philadelphia: <https://www.chop.edu/vaccine-education-center/vaccine-details/hepatitis-a-vaccine>
12. U.S. Food and Drug Administration: <https://www.fda.gov/media/143287/download?attachment>
13. Journal of Allergy and Clinical Immunology: [https://www.jacionline.org/article/S0091-6749\(15\)01160-4/fulltext](https://www.jacionline.org/article/S0091-6749(15)01160-4/fulltext)
14. HHS: <https://www.hhs.gov/immunization/basics/safety/side-effects/index.html>