

# HEPATITIS A & COMMUNITIES AT RISK

## What is Hepatitis?

“Hepatitis” means inflammation or swelling of the liver. The liver is an organ in the human body that aids the body in fighting germs, cleaning blood, and digesting food.

There are five types of viral Hepatitis—Hepatitis A, B, C, D, E. This fact sheet focuses on Hepatitis A virus.

## What is Hepatitis A?

A highly contagious liver infection caused by the Hepatitis A virus.

## Nationwide Hepatitis A Outbreak

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Since 2017, four states declared an Hepatitis A outbreak—California, Kentucky, Michigan, Utah



Since January 2018 West Virginia has seen an increase in Hepatitis A cases

## How is Hepatitis A diagnosed?

A physician can determine if a person has Hepatitis A by discussing his/her symptoms and taking a blood sample.

## What are the symptoms?

- Fever ▪ Fatigue ▪ Loss of Appetite ▪ Nausea
- Vomiting ▪ Abdominal pain ▪ Gray-colored bowel movements ▪ Joint Pain ▪ Jaundice ▪ Dark Urine

## Who is at risk in the community?

- Persons who use drugs, whether injected or not
- Person who had sexual contact with someone who has Hepatitis A
- Men who have sexual encounters with other men
- People who have come into close person-to-person contact with an infected person



## How is Hepatitis A spread?

Hepatitis A is usually spread when a person ingests fecal matter, including microscopic amounts.

- Infected person does not wash his/her hands properly after going to the bathroom and then touches objects or food
- Someone engages in sexual activities with an infected person

## How do I prevent Hepatitis A from spreading?



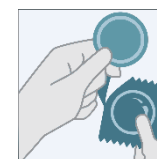
WASH HANDS PROPERLY!



DO NOT SHARE NEEDLES!



GET VACCINATED!



PRACTICE SAFE SEX!

## For more information

Call your local health department or visit: [dhhr.wv.gov/oeps/disease/viral-Hepatitis/pages/hepA\\_outbreak.aspx](http://dhhr.wv.gov/oeps/disease/viral-Hepatitis/pages/hepA_outbreak.aspx).

Reference: Center for Disease Control and Prevention