

Hepatitis A

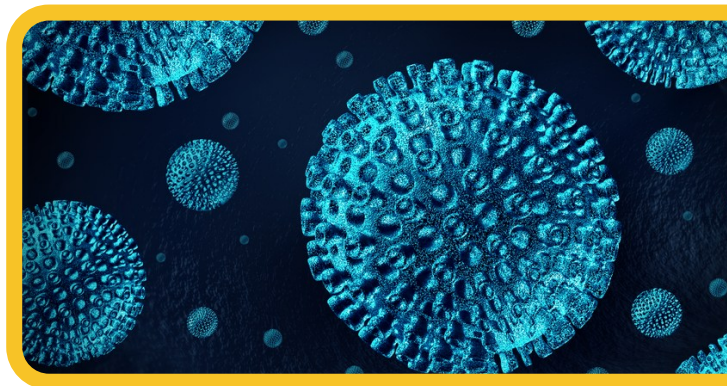


Infectious Disease
Epidemiology &
Prevention Division

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What is Hepatitis A?

Hepatitis A is a highly contagious liver infection that is caused by the *hepatitis A virus*. Spread occurs when an infected person sheds the virus through their stool (poop). Hepatitis A cannot become chronic, meaning that once you get sick you will not get sick again.



Why do I need to stay home?

- To protect vulnerable populations and people who are not vaccinated from getting sick
- Resting at home allows your body to recover faster
- Hepatitis A is contagious while symptomatic, and can spread easily from person to person without proper handwashing

If you work in or visit a high-risk setting, extra exclusions may apply



Childcare/school attendee

Indiana code requires the following before returning to work or attending school/childcare:

- Staying home until the conclusion of the hepatitis A infectious period* **and**
- Symptoms stop for more than 24 hours **and**
- Receiving education on how to prevent this illness at home and at work



Healthcare and Long-term Care Facilities

Indiana code requires the following before returning to work:

- Staying home until the conclusion of the Hep A infectious period* **and**
- Symptoms stop for more than 24 hours **and**
- Receiving education on how to prevent this illness at home and at work



Aquatic venues (e.g., swimming pools, whirlpool spas, wading pools, water parks, interactive fountains, lakes)

Indiana code requires the patient to be excluded from aquatic venues until:

- Symptoms stop for a least two weeks

*Hepatitis A infectious period

- The infectious period for hepatitis A is defined as seven days before to 14 days after the onset of symptoms, if no jaundice occurred. Otherwise it is 14 days before and seven days after the onset of jaundice.

For more information, visit the Indiana Department of Health Hepatitis A webpage.



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If you work in or visit a high-risk setting, additional exclusions may apply



Food service

Indiana code requires the following before returning to work:

- **Exclude from duties involving direct food handling if the patient meets at least one of the following criteria:**
 - Is jaundiced and the onset of jaundice occurred within the last seven calendar days, unless the food employee provides to the person in charge written medical documentation from a health practitioner specifying that the jaundice is not caused by hepatitis A virus or other fecal-orally transmitted infection **or**
 - Is diagnosed with an infection from hepatitis A virus within 14 calendar days from the onset of any illness symptoms, or within seven calendar days of the onset of jaundice **or**
 - Is diagnosed with an infection from hepatitis A virus without developing symptoms
- Stay home until the conclusion of the hepatitis A infectious period* **and** one of the following has occurred:
 - Symptoms stop for more than 24 hours **or**
 - Jaundice occurs for more than seven days **or**
 - The anicteric food employee has been symptomatic with symptoms other than jaundice for more than 14 calendar days **or**
 - The food employee provides to the person in charge written medical documentation that they are free of hepatitis A infection.

*Hepatitis A infectious period

- The infectious period for hepatitis A is defined as seven days before to 14 days after the onset of symptoms, if no jaundice occurred. Otherwise it is 14 days before and seven days after the onset of jaundice.

