Get the Facts: Hepatitis A

Why should you care about hepatitis A?
If a person has an infection with the hepatitis A virus, it can easily spread from person-to-person and cause liver disease lasting a few weeks to a serious illness lasting many months. In some cases, people can die because of hepatitis A.

How does hepatitis A spread?
• Touching objects or eating food that someone with hepatitis A infection handled
• Having sex with someone who has a hepatitis A infection

What are the symptoms of hepatitis A?

- Fever
- Fatigue
- Nausea
- Loss of appetite
- Jaundice (yellowing of the skin or eyes)
- Stomach pain
- Vomiting
- Dark urine, pale stools, and diarrhea

How do I prevent the spread of illness?
• Get vaccinated with hepatitis A vaccine
• Don’t have sex with someone who has hepatitis A infection
• Use your own towels, toothbrushes, and eating utensils
• Don’t share food, drinks, or smokes with other people
• Always wash your hands with soap and water after going to the bathroom and before preparing food

Where can I get more information about hepatitis A?
Talk to your doctor, call 311 or visit cityofchicago.org/hepatitisA

Adapted with permission from San Diego County Health Department