

HEPATITIS A (HAV)

GONORRHEA

VACCINE FOR CHILDREN (VFC) PROGRAM

# COMMUNICABLE DISEASE



SPRING 2018

NEWSLETTER



## HEPATITIS A (HAV)

### DISEASE

Hepatitis A is a highly contagious liver infection caused by the hepatitis A virus (HAV). It can range from a mild illness lasting a few weeks to a severe illness lasting several months. Although rare, HAV can cause death in some people. HAV is transmitted via fecal-oral route. A person unknowingly ingests the virus from objects, food or drinks that have been contaminated with stool from an infected person. The following groups of people are considered high-risk for HAV: persons using both injection and non-injection drugs, men who have sexual contact with men, persons who are homeless, persons who are incarcerated, people with direct contact with someone who has HAV and travelers to countries where HAV is common, such as Africa and Asia.

### SYMPTOMS

The following symptoms can occur when a person has been exposed to HAV: fever, fatigue, loss of appetite, nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain, dark urine, clay-colored stools, joint pain and jaundice (yellowing of the skin and eyes). Diagnosis requires a positive test for the antibody to HAV (anti-HAV) IgM in the blood. IgM is detectable a week before the onset of symptoms to approximately 6 months afterwards.

### COMMUNICABILITY

The incubation period for hepatitis A averages 28 days (range: 15-50 days). People are most contagious 1-2 weeks before the onset of symptoms: jaundice or elevation of liver enzymes. Viral excretion and risk of transmission diminish rapidly after symptoms appear, usually 1 week after the onset of jaundice. Infants and children can shed the virus for up to 6 months after infection.

### TREATMENT

Unvaccinated people who have been exposed recently (within 2 weeks) to HAV should get the hepatitis A vaccine or a shot of immune globulin to prevent severe illness. To treat the symptoms of HAV, doctors usually recommend rest, adequate nutrition and fluids. Some people will need medical care in a hospital. It can take a few months before people with HAV begin to feel better.

### PREVENTION

Hepatitis A is a vaccine-preventable illness! The best way to reduce the risk of getting hepatitis A is to get vaccinated with two doses of hepatitis A vaccine. Always wash your hands after going to the bathroom and before preparing meals for yourself and others. Use your own towels, toothbrushes and eating utensils. Do not have sex with someone who has HAV infection or share food, drinks or smokes with other people.

### REFERENCES

[www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)

<http://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/hepatitis>

**HEPATITIS A FACTS**

**1** Is a viral infection of the liver spread when faecal matter enters the mouth

**2** May last several weeks and can be debilitating but most people recover completely

**3** Preventable with careful hand washing, keeping toilets and bathrooms clean, avoiding infected water sources

**SYMPTOMS INCLUDE**  
nausea  
vomiting

**SPREAD BY**  
direct contact  
food & beverages  
cups & spoons  
and any other objects handled by the infected person

The infographic features a central illustration of a human torso with the liver highlighted in red. To the left, a silhouette of a person's head shows particles being emitted from the mouth. To the right, icons represent vomiting and various items like a burger, a drink, and a spoon.

## GONORRHEA

### DISEASE

Gonorrhea is a sexually transmitted disease (STD) that can infect both men and women. It can cause infections in the genitals, rectum and throat. It is a very common infection, especially among young people ages 15-24 years.

### SYMPTOMS

Some men with gonorrhea may have no symptoms at all. However, men who do have symptoms may have: a burning sensation when urinating, a white, yellow or green discharge from the penis, painful or swollen testicles (although this is less common). Most women with gonorrhea do not have any symptoms. Even when a woman has symptoms, they are often mild and can be mistaken for a bladder or vaginal infection. Symptoms in women can include: painful or burning sensation when urinating, increased vaginal discharge, vaginal bleeding between periods.

Rectal/anal infections may either cause no symptoms or cause symptoms in both men and women that may include: discharge, anal itching, soreness, bleeding and painful bowel movements. You should be examined by your doctor if you notice any of these symptoms or if your partner has an STD or symptoms of an STD, such as an unusual sore, a smelly discharge, burning when urinating or bleeding between periods.

### COMMUNICABILITY

You can get gonorrhea by having vaginal, anal or oral sex with someone who has gonorrhea. A pregnant woman with gonorrhea can give the infection to her baby during childbirth.

### TREATMENT

Gonorrhea can be cured with the right treatment. Although medication will stop the infection, it will not undo any permanent damage caused by the disease. It is becoming harder to treat some gonorrhea, as drug-resistant strains of are increasing. If your symptoms continue for more than a few days after receiving treatment, you should return to a health care provider to be checked again.

### PREVENTION

The only way to avoid STDs is to **not** have vaginal, anal or oral sex. If you are sexually active, you can do the following things to lower your chances of getting gonorrhea: maintain a long-term mutually monogamous relationship with a partner who has been tested and has negative STD test results, use latex condoms the right way every time you have sex.

### REFERENCE

[www.cdc.gov/std/gonorrhea/stdfact-gonorrhea.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/std/gonorrhea/stdfact-gonorrhea.htm)  
<https://www.cdc.gov/std/default.htm#WhatAreSTDs>  
<https://www.cdc.gov/std/prevention/NextSteps-GonorrheaOrChlamydia.htm>  
<https://www.cdc.gov/std/pregnancy/stdfact-pregnancy.htm>  
<https://www.cdc.gov/std/gonorrhea/treatment.htm>  
<https://www.cdc.gov/std/gonorrhea/arg/default.htm>  
<https://www.cdc.gov/condomeffectiveness/male-condom-use.html>

## Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program

The Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program was created on August 10, 1993, under the *Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of Section 1928* of the *Social Security Act*. The VFC Program has been operational since August 1, 1994 and Michigan has participated since 1995.



One of the primary goals of the VFC Program is to offer comprehensive medical care to children 18 years of age and younger through the provision of quality immunization services in the medical home. Other benefits include:

- Offering convenient, client-centered immunization services
- Increasing the likelihood of children beginning the immunization series as scheduled and remaining up-to-date
- Offering the provider the ability to order all vaccines recommended by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) free of charge\*
- Increasing clients protection against vaccine preventable diseases

*\*Vaccine is free of charge to providers for administration to eligible children*

### Who is eligible for the VFC Program?

Children less than 19 years of age are eligible to receive vaccines through the VFC Program if they are:

- Enrolled in Medicaid
- Uninsured (have no health insurance at all)
- Underinsured (have private health insurance which does not cover immunizations)
- American Indian or Alaskan Native

The Saginaw County Department of Public Health (SCDPH) is looking for additional providers to join the VFC Program. If you are interested in becoming a VFC Provider, or would like more information, contact the SCDPH Immunization Program at (989) 758-3840.

### References:

<http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/programs/vfc/about/index.html>

**COMMUNICABLE DISEASE  
REPORTED FOR SAGINAW COUNTY  
FOR THE QUARTER  
01/01/2018--03/31/2018**

Disease	No. Reported
AIDS, AGGREGATE	0
ANIMAL BITE	34
CAMPYLOBACTER	4
CHIKUNGUNYA	0
CHLAMYDIA (Genital)	359
CRYPTOSPORIDIOSIS	0
FLU LIKE DISEASE	3628
GASTROINTESTINAL ILLNESS	1281
GIARDIASIS	2
GONORRHEA	110
HEAD LICE	73
HEPATITIS B ACUTE	0
HEPATITIS B CHRONIC	2
HEPATITIS C ACUTE	0
HEPATITIS C CHRONIC	33
INFLUENZA	1211
LEGIONELLOSIS	1
MENINGITIS-ASEPTIC	3
MENINGITIS-BACTERIAL OTHER	1
MUMPS	0
PERTUSSIS	2
RABIES-ANIMAL	0
SALMONELLOSIS	3
SHIGELLOSIS	1
SHINGLES	1
STREP THROAT	119
STREPTOCOCCUS PNEUMONIA, INVASIVE	8
SYPHILLIS-LATE LATENT	0
TUBERCULOSIS	0
VZ INFECTION, UNSPECIFIED	1
YERSINIA ENTERITIS	0
ZIKA	0

**COMMUNICABLE DISEASE YTD  
REPORTED FOR SAGINAW COUNTY  
01/01/2018-03/31/2018**

Disease	No. Reported
AIDS, AGGREGATE	0
ANIMAL BITE	34
CAMPYLOBACTER	4
CHIKUNGUNYA	0
CHLAMYDIA (Genital)	359
CRYPTOSPORIDIOSIS	0
FLU LIKE DISEASE	3628
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PERTUSSIS	2
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YERSINIA ENTERITIS	0
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Please visit our website at [www.saginawpublichealth.org](http://www.saginawpublichealth.org)

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