

HEPATITIS A VACCINE

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

1 What is hepatitis A?

Hepatitis A is a serious liver disease caused by the hepatitis A virus (HAV). HAV is found in the stool of persons with hepatitis A. It is usually spread by close personal contact and sometimes by eating food or drinking water containing HAV.

Hepatitis A can cause:

- mild “flu-like” illness
- jaundice (yellow skin or eyes)
- severe stomach pains and diarrhea

People with hepatitis A often have to be hospitalized (up to about 1 person in 5).

Sometimes, people die as a result of hepatitis A (about 3-5 deaths per 1,000 cases).

A person who has hepatitis A can easily pass the disease to others within the same household.

Hepatitis A vaccine can prevent hepatitis A.

2 Who should get hepatitis A vaccine and when?

WHO?

Some people should be routinely vaccinated with hepatitis A vaccine:

- All children 1 year (12 through 23 months) of age.
- Persons 1 year of age and older traveling to or working in countries with high or intermediate prevalence of hepatitis A, such as those located in Central or South America, Mexico, Asia (except Japan), Africa, and eastern Europe. For more information see www.cdc.gov/travel.
- Children and adolescents through 18 years of age who live in states or communities where

routine vaccination has been implemented because of high disease incidence.

- Men who have sex with men.
- Persons who use street drugs.
- Persons with chronic liver disease.
- Persons who are treated with clotting factor concentrates.
- Persons who work with HAV-infected primates or who work with HAV in research laboratories.

Other people might get hepatitis A vaccine in special situations:

- Hepatitis A vaccine might be recommended for children or adolescents in communities where outbreaks of hepatitis A are occurring.

Hepatitis A vaccine is not licensed for children younger than 1 year of age.

WHEN?

For children, the first dose should be given at 12-23 months of age. Children who are not vaccinated by 2 years of age can be vaccinated at later visits.

For travelers, the vaccine series should be started at least one month before traveling to provide the best protection.

Persons who get the vaccine less than one month before traveling can also get a shot called immune globulin (IG). IG gives immediate, temporary protection.

For others, the hepatitis A vaccine series may be started whenever a person is at risk of infection.

Two doses of the vaccine are needed for lasting protection. These doses should be given at least 6 months apart.

Hepatitis A vaccine may be given at the same time as other vaccines.

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Some people should not get hepatitis A vaccine or should wait

- Anyone who has ever had a severe (life-threatening) **allergic reaction to a previous dose** of hepatitis A vaccine should not get another dose.
- Anyone who has a severe (life threatening) **allergy to any vaccine component** should not get the vaccine. Tell your doctor if you have any severe allergies. All hepatitis A vaccines contain alum and some hepatitis A vaccines contain 2-phenoxyethanol.
- Anyone who is **moderately or severely ill** at the time the shot is scheduled should probably wait until they recover. Ask your doctor or nurse. People with a **mild illness** can usually get the vaccine.
- Tell your doctor if you are **pregnant**. The safety of hepatitis A vaccine for pregnant women has not been determined. But there is no evidence that it is harmful to either pregnant women or their unborn babies. The risk, if any, is thought to be very low.

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What are the risks from hepatitis A vaccine?

A vaccine, like any medicine, could possibly cause serious problems, such as severe allergic reactions. The risk of hepatitis A vaccine causing serious harm, or death, is extremely small.

Getting hepatitis A vaccine is much safer than getting the disease.

Mild problems

- soreness where the shot was given (*about 1 out of 2 adults, and up to 1 out of 6 children*)
- headache (*about 1 out of 6 adults and 1 out of 25 children*)
- loss of appetite (*about 1 out of 12 children*)
- tiredness (*about 1 out of 14 adults*)

If these problems occur, they usually last 1 or 2 days.

Severe problems

- serious allergic reaction, within a few minutes to a few hours of the shot (*very rare*)

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What if there is a moderate or severe reaction?

What should I look for?

- Any unusual condition, such as a high fever or behavior changes. Signs of a serious allergic reaction can include difficulty breathing, hoarseness or wheezing, hives, paleness, weakness, a fast heart beat or dizziness.

What should I do?

- **Call** a doctor, or get the person to a doctor right away.
- **Tell** your doctor what happened, the date and time it happened, and when the vaccination was given.
- **Ask** your doctor, nurse, or health department to report the reaction by filing a Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS) form.

Or you can file this report through the VAERS web site at www.vaers.hhs.gov, or by calling 1-800-822-7967.

VAERS does not provide medical advice.

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The National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program

In the event that you or your child has a serious reaction to a vaccine, a federal program has been created to help pay for the care of those who have been harmed.

For details about the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program, call 1-800-338-2382 or visit their website at www.hrsa.gov/vaccinecompensation.

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How can I learn more?

- Ask your doctor or nurse. They can give you the vaccine package insert or suggest other sources of information.
- Call your local or state health department.
- Contact the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC):
 - Call **1-800-232-4636 (1-800-CDC-INFO)**
 - Visit CDC websites at: www.cdc.gov/hepatitis or www.cdc.gov/nip



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION
NATIONAL IMMUNIZATION PROGRAM



IMMUNIZE L.A.

Hepatitis A Vaccination Consent Form

I have read and understood the above information about Hepatitis A vaccination. I have had a chance to ask questions. I understand the benefits and risks of Hepatitis A vaccination and request that vaccine be given to me or the person named below whom I am authorized to sign for.

Information of Person to Receive Vaccine			
Name (Please print)	Birth date	Age	
Address: Street	City	State	Zip
Phone Number			
X			
Signature (Person receiving Vaccine or Parent or Guardian)			Date

For Clinic Use	
Plaza West Pharmacy 19631 Parthenia Street Northridge, CA 91324 Phone: (818) 886-4900	Olympia Plaza Pharmacy 5901 W. Olympic Blvd., #103 Los Angeles, CA 90036 Phone: (323) 937-2590
Date of Vaccination:	
Manufacture/ lot number:	
Site of Injection:	
Chronic Diseases:	Yes No



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Screening Questionnaire

The following questions will help us determine which vaccines may be given today. If a question is not clear, please ask your health care provider to explain it.

- | | Yes | No | Don't
Know |
|---|-----|----|---------------|
| 1. Are you sick today? | | | |
| 2. Do you have allergies to medications, food, or any vaccine? | | | |
| 3. Have you ever had a serious reaction after receiving a vaccination? | | | |
| 4. Do you have cancer, leukemia, AIDS, or any other immune system problem? | | | |
| 5. Do you take cortisone, prednisone, other steroids, or anticancer drugs, or have you had x-ray treatments? | | | |
| 6. During the past year, have you received a transfusion of blood or blood products, or been given a medicine called immune (gamma) globulin? | | | |
| 7. For women: Are you pregnant or is there a chance you could become pregnant in the next three months? | | | |
| 8. Have you received any vaccinations in the past 4 weeks? | | | |

X

Signature (Person receiving Vaccine or Parent or Guardian)

Date

Did you bring your immunization record card with you? Yes No

It is important for you to have a personal record of your vaccinations. If you don't have a record card, ask your health care provider to give you one. Bring this record with you every time you seek medical care. Make sure your health care provider records all your vaccinations on it.

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