# Hepatitis A Virus (HAV) Alert for Food Workers

**HAV is contagious.**

HAV usually spreads person-to-person through objects, food or drink that are contaminated by small amounts of stool from a person with HAV.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>At-risk people</th>
<th>Symptoms</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- Are in close contact, care for or live with someone who has HAV.</td>
<td>- Stomach pain</td>
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<td>- Use injection or non-injection drugs.</td>
<td>- Nausea and vomiting</td>
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<td>- Are homeless or in temporary housing.</td>
<td>- Yellow skin or eyes (jaundice)</td>
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<td>- Have recently been incarcerated.</td>
<td>- Diarrhea</td>
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<td>- Are men who have had sex with other men.</td>
<td>- Loss of appetite</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Have recently visited a country where HAV is common.</td>
<td>- Joint pain</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Are having sex with someone who has HAV.</td>
<td>- Pale or clay colored stool</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Don’t spread HAV outside of work.**

If you have some symptoms and a close friend, relative or roommate who has been diagnosed with HAV in the past 30 days, see a health care provider immediately.

**LET YOUR BOSS KNOW IF:**

- You’re seeing a health care provider because you have HAV symptoms.
- You’ve seen a health care provider and you have HAV.

**Wash your hands with soap and warm water for 20 seconds:**

**BEFORE YOU**

- Put on disposable gloves.
- Prepare food.
- Switch between working with raw food and working with ready-to-eat food.
- Work with food that isn’t packaged.
- Change kitchen tasks.
- Handle or serve food.
- Handle clean tableware and utensils.
- Handle take-out containers or utensils.
- Clean equipment.

**AFTER YOU**

- Touch bare human body parts other than clean hands and arms.
- Use the restroom.
- Handle dirty equipment or utensils.
- Cough, sneeze or use a handkerchief or tissue.
- Use tobacco, eat or drink.

**DON’T SHARE:**

- Towels, toothbrushes or eating utensils.

**DON’T TOUCH:**

- Food, drinks, drugs or cigarettes that have been handled by a person with HAV.

HAV spreads person-to-person from ingesting small amounts of fecal matter from a person with HAV. Sexual activity can spread HAV. People who are sick with HAV should avoid sexual contact.

**The vaccination is safe & effective.**

- If you’re at risk, you should get vaccinated.
- The vaccine is given as 2 shots, 6 months apart. You need both shots for the vaccine to work long-term.

Contact the Florida Department of Health’s Hepatitis Section: 850-245-4303
hsh.Hepatitis@flhealth.gov

Learn more:
FloridaHealth.gov/hepa
CDC.gov/Hepatitis
Immunize.org/Hepatitis-A