

Hepatitis A

Did you know lots of people in Southeast Michigan have hepatitis A? Over 692 people have been sick with hepatitis A, and 22 people died since August 2016.

What is Hepatitis A?

Hepatitis A is liver sickness you get from germs that spread easily. It is caused by the hepatitis A virus. It can spread by touching something with the virus, or from eating food or drinking something made by somebody who has the virus. Hepatitis A can cause diarrhea and yellowing of the eyes and skin. It can last a few weeks and become serious. People who don't look or feel sick can still spread hepatitis A.

Can I get Hepatitis A?

Anyone can get hepatitis A. Some people have a greater chance like those who:

- Travel to or live in countries where it is common
- Have sex with someone who has hepatitis A
- Gay, bi-sexual, or other men who have sex with men
- Use drugs
- Have clotting disorders, such as hemophilia
- Live with or care for a person with hepatitis A

How can I make sure I don't get Hepatitis A?

The best way to stop hepatitis A is to get the vaccine. Experts want all children to get two doses of the Hepatitis A shot, starting at age 1. Older kids and adults can get the shot too. Talk to your doctor or call your local health department for more information.