



KNOW MORE HEPATITIS™

It's National Hepatitis Awareness Month! Each Wednesday we will be discussing the different forms of Hepatitis; today is all about Hepatitis A!

Hepatitis A Virus (HAV) is a highly contagious infection and is typically spread person-to-person when common surface areas, objects, food, and/or drinks are contaminated with feces from a person experiencing HAV signs or symptoms; meaning a person ingests fecal (poop) matter from an infected person. The onset of signs and symptoms can vary from 15-50 days. HAV signs and symptoms include nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, jaundice (yellowing of skin or eyes), abdominal pain, fatigue, and/or pale colored stool. If symptoms proceed too long, hospitalization can occur.

Preventative measures to prevent the spreading of HAV include washing your hands before eating and after using the restroom, not eating/drinking after someone experiencing symptoms of HAV, and/or HAV vaccination. The state of Missouri does not require, but does recommend youth receive Hepatitis A vaccine.