

Childhood Vaccines

Caregiver Information

At Eisner Health, your baby's health is our top priority.



What is the **hepatitis A** vaccine, and who needs it?

The hepatitis A vaccine protects against hepatitis A, a highly contagious infection that can affect the liver.

- Hepatitis A symptoms include fatigue, low appetite, stomach pain, nausea, and jaundice (yellow skin or eyes, dark urine, light-colored bowel movements).
- Most people who get hepatitis A feel sick for weeks, but they usually recover. In rare cases, the disease can cause liver failure and death.
- A person infected with hepatitis A can transmit the disease to other people even if the person does not have any symptoms.

Children should receive two doses of the hepatitis A vaccine: one between their first and second birthdays and the second one at least 6 months after the first dose.



How does hepatitis A spread?

The hepatitis A virus is found in the stool and blood of people who are infected. The hepatitis A virus is spread when someone ingests the virus (even in amounts too small to see) through:

- Person-to-person contact
- Eating contaminated food or drink

I don't know anybody who has had hepatitis A. Does my baby need this vaccine?

YES

- Since 2016, hepatitis A outbreaks have been reported in 37 states, involving approximately 44,650 cases, 27,250 hospitalizations, and 415 deaths.
- If your child becomes infected with hepatitis A, he or she will experience a short-term infection. The hepatitis A virus does not cause long-term infection (unlike hepatitis B or C) but can still be extremely dangerous to young children, causing fever, fatigue, nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain or discomfort, and diarrhea.

The reason you don't typically see hepatitis A is because so many children are vaccinated against it. However, California experienced a large hepatitis A outbreak in 2016–2018 because it is very easily spread, and many people were unvaccinated. If we stop vaccinating against these diseases, they can reemerge.

Receiving vaccines is an important part of a child's health.

Vaccines give your child the antibodies they need to fight off serious diseases. As a parent or caregiver, we want you to feel confident about making the choice to protect your child.

Please talk with your provider if you have any questions about vaccinations.

