

# HEPATITIS FAST FACTS

Hepatitis A	Hepatitis B	Hepatitis C
<b>What causes it?</b>		
Hepatitis A virus	Hepatitis B virus	Hepatitis C virus
<b>Number of U.S. cases</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>About 24,900 new infections each year</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>About 22,000 and 22,600 new infections in 2017 &amp; 2018 respectively</li> <li>Estimated 900,000 people living with hepatitis B</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>About 50,300 new infections in 2018</li> <li>Estimated 2.4 million people living with hepatitis C</li> </ul>
<b>Key facts</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Effective vaccine available</li> <li>Outbreaks still occur in the United States; currently there are are widespread person-to-person outbreaks</li> <li>Recent foodborne outbreaks in US traced to imported food</li> <li>Common in many countries, especially those without modern sanitation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Effective vaccine available</li> <li>About 2 in 3 people with hepatitis B do not know they are infected</li> <li>About 50% of people with hepatitis B in the U.S are Asian</li> <li>Hepatitis B is a leading cause of liver cancer</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>About 50% of people with hepatitis C do not know they are infected</li> <li>Hepatitis C is a leading cause of liver transplants and liver cancer</li> </ul>
<b>How long does it last?</b>		
Hepatitis A can last from a few weeks to several months.	Hepatitis B can range from a mild illness, lasting a few weeks, to a serious, life-long (chronic) condition. More than 90% of unimmunized infants who get infected develop a chronic infection, but 6%–10% of older children and adults who get infected develop chronic hepatitis B.	Hepatitis C can range from a mild illness, lasting a few weeks, to a serious, life-long (chronic) infection. Most people who get infected with the hepatitis C virus develop chronic hepatitis C.
<b>How is it spread?</b>		
Hepatitis A is spread when a person ingests fecal matter—even in microscopic amounts—from contact with objects, food, or drinks contaminated by feces or stool from an infected person.	Hepatitis B is primarily spread when blood, semen, or certain other body fluids- even in microscopic amounts – from a person infected with the hepatitis B virus enters the body of someone who is not infected. The hepatitis B virus can also be transmitted from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Birth to an infected mother</li> <li>Sex with an infected person</li> <li>Sharing equipment that has been contaminated with blood from an infected person, such as needles, syringes, and even medical equipment, such as glucose monitors</li> <li>Sharing personal items such as toothbrushes or</li> </ul>	Hepatitis C is spread when blood from a person infected with the Hepatitis C virus – even in microscopic amounts – enters the body of someone who is not infected. The hepatitis C virus can also be transmitted from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sharing equipment that has been contaminated with blood from an infected person, such as needles and syringes</li> <li>Receiving a blood transfusion or organ transplant before 1992 (when widespread screening virtually eliminated hepatitis C from the blood supply)</li> <li>Poor infection</li> </ul>
<b>Children</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All children aged 12–23 months</li> <li>All children and adolescents 2–18 years of age who have not previously received hepatitis A vaccine (known as “catch up” vaccination)</li> </ul> <b>People at increased risk for hepatitis A</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>International travelers</li> <li>Men who have sex with men</li> <li>People who use or inject drugs (all those who use illegal drugs)</li> <li>People with occupational risk for exposure</li> <li>People who anticipate close</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All infants</li> <li>All children and adolescents younger than 19 years of age who have not been vaccinated</li> <li>People at risk for infection by sexual exposure including: people whose sex partners have hepatitis B, sexually active people who are not in a long-term, mutually monogamous relationship, people seeking evaluation or treatment for an STD, and men who have sex with men</li> <li>People at risk for infection by exposure to blood including: people who inject drugs, people who live with a person who has hepatitis B, residents and staff of facilities for developmentally disabled people,</li> </ul>	There is no vaccine available for hepatitis C.
<b>How serious is it?</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>People can be sick for a few weeks to a few months</li> <li>Most recover with no lasting liver damage</li> <li>Although very rare, death can occur</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>15%–25% of chronically infected people develop chronic liver disease, including cirrhosis, liver failure, or liver cancer</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>More than 50% of people who get infected with the hepatitis C virus develop a chronic infection</li> <li>5%-25% of people with chronic hepatitis C develop cirrhosis over 10–20 years</li> <li>75% to 85% of patients with hepatitis C develop a chronic liver infection</li> </ul>
<b>Treatment</b>		
Supportive treatment for symptoms	Acute: No medication available; best addressed through supportive care Chronic: Regular monitoring for signs of liver disease progression; some patients are treated with antiviral drugs	Acute: There is not a recommended treatment for acute hepatitis C. People should be considered for treatment if their infection becomes chronic. Chronic: There are several medications available to treat chronic hepatitis C. Current treatments usually involve 8-12 weeks of oral therapy (pills) and cure over 90% of people with few side effects
<b>Who should be tested?</b>		
Testing for hepatitis A is not routinely recommended.	CDC recommends hepatitis B testing for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><u>People born in countries with 2% or higher HBV prevalence</u></li> <li>Men who have sex with men</li> <li>People who inject drugs</li> <li>People with HIV</li> <li>Household and sexual contacts of people with hepatitis B</li> <li>People requiring immunosuppressive therapy</li> <li>People with end-stage renal disease (including hemodialysis patients)</li> <li>People with hepatitis C</li> </ul>	CDC recommends hepatitis C testing for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All adults aged 18 years and older</li> <li>All pregnant women during each pregnancy</li> <li>People who ever injected drugs and shared needles, syringes, or other drug preparation equipment, including those who injected once or a few times many years ago. Regular testing is recommended for people who currently inject and share needles, syringes, or other drug preparation equipment.</li> <li>People with HIV</li> </ul>