



FREE Hepatitis A Vaccine for Childcare Workers

Available to those 19 years of age and older

Saturday, August 11, 2018

9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Tuesday, August 14, 2018

3 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Westchester County Health Department
134 Court Street, White Plains

Schedule your appointment

Online: www.health.ny.gov/gotoclinic/60

Phone: 995-5800 or 995-7499

Hepatitis A and Childcare Workers

What is Hepatitis A?

Hepatitis A is a serious liver disease caused by the hepatitis A virus (HAV).

How is it spread?

HAV is spread from person to person through contact with the feces (stool) of people who are infected, which can easily happen if someone does not wash their hands properly. You can also get hepatitis A from food, water, or objects contaminated with HAV.

What are the symptoms?

Symptoms of hepatitis A can appear 15 to 50 days after exposure and include:
fever, fatigue, loss of appetite, nausea, vomiting, and/or joint pain
severe stomach pains and diarrhea, or
jaundice (yellow skin or eyes, dark urine, clay-colored bowel movements)

Are childcare workers at higher risk of getting Hepatitis A?

Childcare workers who care for children younger than two years of age are at higher risk than other people for becoming infected with Hepatitis A. This is because children in this age group are not yet old enough to be immunized or completely immunized against the disease. Childcare workers are also at high risk for spreading Hepatitis A to vulnerable babies and children in this age range who are too young to be protected through vaccination.

Why should childcare workers be concerned about Hepatitis A?

A childcare worker with hepatitis A can contract the virus from, and transmit the virus to, babies and children two years old and younger in their care who aren't yet fully immunized when changing diapers and by contaminating surfaces, toys, food, drinks, ice, bottles, cups or utensils. These things can become contaminated when an infected person touches them with bare unwashed hands (after not washing them carefully following use of the restroom or after changing a diaper). That is why it is important for childcare workers to get immunized against Hepatitis A and practice good hand washing habits, along with other infection control steps.

How can childcare workers prevent the spread of Hepatitis A?

There are four important ways a childcare worker can prevent the spread of hepatitis A:

- Childcare workers should never work while ill with fever, nausea, vomiting, abdominal cramps, or diarrhea
- Childcare workers should always practice good hand washing – especially after using the restroom or changing a child's diaper
- Childcare workers should wear gloves when handling or preparing ready-to-eat foods and when changing diapers
- Childcare workers can be vaccinated against hepatitis A

What is the Hepatitis A Vaccine?

The hepatitis A vaccine is an inactivated (killed) vaccine. You will need two doses for long-lasting protection. These doses should be given at least six months apart. Children are routinely vaccinated between their first and second birthdays. Adults who have not been vaccinated and want to be protected against hepatitis A can also get the vaccine.