

HEPATITIS A | Prevention and Control

What is hepatitis A?

Hepatitis A is a highly contagious liver infection caused by the hepatitis A virus. The hepatitis A virus is usually transmitted through the fecal-oral route, either through person-to-person contact or consumption of contaminated food or water. Contamination can occur when infected persons don't wash their hands properly after using the bathroom and then touching other objects or food items. The hepatitis A virus is extremely hardy, and can live outside of the body for months. Surfaces that are frequently touched should be cleaned and sanitized often:

- Doorknobs
- Recreation equipment
- Toilet room surfaces
- Kitchen surfaces
- Computer keyboards
- Railings
- Light switch plates
- Phones
- Wheelchairs/walkers
- Remote controls
- High chairs
- Tables and chairs

Cleaning up vomit or feces

1. Use personal protective equipment (PPE) such as gloves, masks and gowns.
2. Block-off area immediately.
3. Clean up visible debris using disposable absorbent material (paper towels or other type of disposable cloths) and minimize aerosols.
4. Discard soiled items carefully in a plastic bag.
5. Thoroughly clean affected area.
6. Disinfect area and objects surrounding the contamination with an appropriate disinfectant effective against hepatitis A. See "Effective disinfectants".
7. Take off gloves, gown and mask, in that order, and discard before exiting contaminated clean-up area.
8. Place discarded PPE in a plastic bag.
9. Re-glove and transport bag to a trash container; do not allow the bag to touch any clothing.
10. Always wash your hands after handling any contaminated material, trash or waste.

Effective disinfectants

Mix and use the chlorine solution within 20 minutes. Allow 1 minute of contact time, then rinse with water.



1 ²/₃ CUPS BLEACH

+

1 GALLON WATER

=

5000 ppm
CHLORINE SOLUTION

OTHER DISINFECTANTS: Other disinfectants may be approved only if they are clearly labeled for "hepatitis A use." Most Quaternary Ammonium disinfectants are NOT EFFECTIVE against hepatitis A. For corrodible or bleach damageable surfaces, use a registered product against hepatitis A.

Proper handling tips

- Use chemicals in well-ventilated areas.
- Avoid contact between incompatible chemicals.
- Prevent chemical contact with food during cleaning.
- Handle contaminated material as little as possible.
- Manage waste safely and dispose in a trash container

QUESTIONS? CALL (562) 570-7907