

Hepatitis A Vaccine: Indications

Recommended and provided free to:

- Individuals with haemophilia A or B receiving plasma-derived replacement clotting factors and testing negative for anti-HAV IgG.
- Previously unimmunized anti-HCV positive individuals who are anti-HAV IgG negative.
- Previously unimmunized individuals chronically infected with hepatitis B virus who are anti-HAV IgG negative.
- Individuals with other chronic liver disease (e.g., cirrhosis, liver damage from hemochromatosis) who are anti-HAV IgG negative.
- Candidates or recipients of a liver transplant.
- People who use illicit injection drugs; persons sharing illicit drug snorting, smoking or injecting equipment.
- Men who have sex with men.
- Individuals who are HIV positive.
- Inmates of provincial correctional facilities.
- Hematopoietic stem cell transplant (HSCT) recipients.
- Individuals receiving repeat blood transfusions or plasma-derived clotting factors.
- Contacts of a case of hepatitis A: ^A
 - Household; close non-household; daycare; who share illicit drugs; sexual contacts.
 - Other food handlers at the same establishment if the case is a food handler.
 - Patrons of involved food-handling establishment at risk of hepatitis A as assessed by Public Health Staff.
- Indigenous peoples 6 months to 18 years of age. ^B

RECOMMENDED BY THE NATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON IMMUNIZATION BUT NOT PROVIDED FREE IN BC:

- Travellers, military personnel, and others who will work or live in countries with intermediate or high endemic rates of HAV infection, specifically when travel or work will involve rural or basic living conditions.
- Household or close contacts of adopted children from hepatitis A endemic countries.
- Immigrants from hepatitis A endemic areas.
- Food handlers.
- Persons with multiple sex partners.
- Residents and staff of institutions for developmentally challenged clients where there is an ongoing problem with HAV transmission.
- Zookeepers, veterinarians and researchers who handle non-human primates.
- Certain workers involved in research on hepatitis A virus or the production of hepatitis A vaccine.

^A One dose of vaccine is to be provided when it is within 14 days after the last exposure to the case while case was in the infectious period. If a client received 1 dose of hepatitis A vaccine more than 6 months previously, provide a 2nd dose of hepatitis A vaccine. For more information on post-exposure prophylaxis, refer to the [Communicable Disease Control Manual, Chapter 1, Hepatitis A](#).

^B Indigenous peoples includes anyone self-identifying as First Nations, Métis and Inuit. Self-identification by community members as Indigenous or of Indigenous descent is sufficient criteria for eligibility for this program. Indigenous peoples may be disproportionately affected by hepatitis A disease because of longstanding inequities related to the social determinants of health due to the impacts of colonization.