

Hepatitis A – Cumulus Inc.

Frequently Asked Questions

Who is at risk?

Anyone who ate food – especially uncooked food – at Cumulus Inc. between 26 February and 19 March 2018 may be at risk of hepatitis A infection and should visit their GP for a free hepatitis A vaccine. Staff working at Cumulus Inc. who did not eat food sourced from Cumulus Inc. are also identified to be at risk.

I attended Cumulus Inc. restaurant between 26 February and 19 March 2018, what should I do?

Call ahead to your GP and say you were exposed and need a free hepatitis A vaccine.

Attend your GP to get a free hepatitis A vaccine.

Look out for symptoms of hepatitis A around 15-50 days after the exposure (or earliest exposure if you ate there more than once), even if you do get vaccinated.

If you start experiencing any symptoms, seek immediate medical attention.

What are the symptoms?

It takes between 15-50 days to develop the infection after a susceptible person comes into contact with hepatitis A.

Adults who get hepatitis A usually develop symptoms, which include fever, nausea, vomiting and abdominal discomfort, followed by dark urine and yellow skin/eyes (also known as jaundice). Sometimes only some of these symptoms are present.

Symptoms may last for several weeks, but full recovery usually occurs.

Young children under five years of age infected with hepatitis A virus may have a mild illness with few or no symptoms, but can still transmit infection to others.

Are there any age restrictions on who is eligible to receive the free vaccine?

Yes. Children less than 1 year of age cannot receive hepatitis A vaccination. These children can be protected by receiving normal human immunoglobulin. Contact your general practitioner.

I am at risk – should I stay away from work before / after receiving free hepatitis A vaccine?

You do not need to stay away from any settings including work because of this exposure, as long as you are well. If you are unwell / develop symptoms that could be caused by hepatitis A infection, you should seek medical attention urgently.

I don't have any symptoms and I've had my free vaccine, am I safe to go to work, school etc.?

Yes. The vaccine is more effective at preventing hepatitis A infection after an exposure if given within 14 days of the exposure. Regardless, if you are well, you can continue to attend work or school.

Do I need to get tested for hepatitis A before getting the vaccine?

No. You do not need to be tested prior to getting the vaccine. If you have received a full course of hepatitis A vaccine in the past, you are likely to be immune and do not require the vaccine because of this exposure.

But if you are not sure if you have received it, or know that you only received one dose, you should not be tested now. You should just receive the vaccine.

If you are experiencing any symptoms of hepatitis A then you should visit your GP to get tested.

Where can I find more information about hepatitis A?

Visit the Better Health Channel www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au and search 'hepatitis A'.

Health professional specific:

I am a GP and I have a person seeing me who is at risk – what should I do?

If there is documented evidence of two doses of inactivated hepatitis A vaccine, appropriately spaced, at any time in the past, or documented laboratory evidence of hepatitis A antibody, no hepatitis A vaccine is required in response to this recent exposure

If you are unsure if your patient has been vaccinated, or only received one vaccine in the past, give a single dose of inactivated hepatitis A vaccine now, without testing for immunity first (provided there is no contraindication).

Advise the patient to look out for symptoms of hepatitis A from 15-50 days after the exposure, and to stay off work and to seek medical assessment if they become unwell.

Your patient does not need to be excluded from work or any location because of this exposure, before or after they receive the vaccine. Only people who become unwell with symptoms that are compatible with hepatitis A 15-50 days after exposure should be excluded.

Do I need to test people for immunity before providing a free hepatitis A vaccine?

No. If you are unsure if your patient has been vaccinated, or only received one vaccine in the past, give a single dose of inactivated hepatitis A vaccine now, without testing for immunity first (provided there is no contraindication).

My patient is pregnant and at risk – should they be vaccinated?

Hepatitis A vaccination can be given to pregnant as post exposure prophylaxis if they are thought to have been exposed to a known case. Pregnant women who fulfil the eligibility criteria can receive the vaccine.

How do I order or access free hepatitis A vaccine?

Download the Government Vaccine Order Form from <https://www2.health.vic.gov.au/public-health/immunisation/vaccine-order-and-stock/vaccine-order-forms>. Specify the number of doses of vaccine you would like to order under Havrix@1440. The form should be submitted to Onelink via fax or email using the details on the form.