

The ABCs of Hepatitis Fact Sheet

HEPATITIS A	HEPATITIS B	HEPATITIS C
What is it?		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ A virus that causes damage to the liver ▶ Goes away after a few weeks to several months 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ A virus that causes damage to the liver ▶ USUALLY goes away after several months ▶ If it does not go away, it can cause liver cell damage, leading to cirrhosis (scarring) and liver cancer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ A virus that causes damage to the liver ▶ USUALLY does NOT go away unless treated with medication ▶ It can cause liver cell damage, leading to cirrhosis (scarring) and liver cancer
How is it spread?		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Eating or drinking food or water that has been contaminated with infected feces ▶ Close contact with an infected person 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Contact with infected blood or sexual fluids ▶ Sharing injection drug equipment, or tattoo and body-piercing ▶ Needlestick from an infected person ▶ Passed from infected mother to newborn during childbirth 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Sharing injection drug equipment, or tattoo and body-piercing tools ▶ Contact with infected blood ▶ Sharing razors and toothbrushes ▶ Passed from infected mother to newborn during childbirth ▶ Spread through sex (rare with long-term partner)
Symptoms		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ For hepatitis A or hepatitis B, some may have light stools, dark urine, fatigue, fever, nausea, vomiting, loss of appetite, stomachache, and yellow skin or eyes (jaundice) ▶ Some people don't experience any symptoms 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Most people have no symptoms ▶ Some may feel tired and experience nausea and loss of appetite
Treatment		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Lots of rest and fluids 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Oral anti-viral medication or rarely, interferon 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Oral anti-viral medication
Prevention		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Washing hands with soap and water after using the toilet ▶ Wear protective gloves and use 1 part bleach to 9 parts water to clean surfaces contaminated with feces, such as changing tables. Soak spill area for 1-2 minutes ▶ Avoid contaminated food and water ▶ Vaccination 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Wear protective gloves and clean up spilled blood with 1 part bleach to 9 parts water. Soak spill area for 10-30 minutes ▶ Do not share razors, toothbrushes, or needles ▶ Practice safe sex: use a latex condom or barrier ▶ Vaccination 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Wear protective gloves and clean up spilled blood with 1 part bleach to 9 parts water. Soak spill area for 10-30 minutes ▶ Do not share razors, toothbrushes, or needles ▶ Practice safe sex: use a latex condom or barrier ▶ No vaccine exists ▶ Can get re-infected after being cured

