Hepatitis A is a serious liver disease caused by infection with hepatitis A virus

• Hepatitis A virus is found in the feces (poop) of people who are infected with the virus. It is usually spread by getting invisible particles of hepatitis A virus–contaminated feces in your mouth.

• The most common way for you to get infected is through close personal contact, such as with a person infected with hepatitis A virus or having sex with an infected person. You can also get infected if you travel abroad where sanitation practices may not be adequate. This might happen when you eat hepatitis A virus–contaminated food or drink hepatitis A virus–contaminated water only — and it can even happen in four-star restaurants in the United States.

• You can feel quite sick when you’re infected with hepatitis A and some people die

• If you have symptoms, they usually come on suddenly and can include fever, tiredness, loss of appetite, nausea, belly pain, colo-colored urine, and yellowing of the skin and eyes.

• The illness usually lasts several weeks, but you might feel sick for as long as six months.

• There is no medicine to treat you for hepatitis A – only supportive care is available.

• Safe, effective hepatitis A vaccines have been available since 1995.

Consider your answers to the following questions

Is all the food you eat as clean as you and the others in your family think it is? Hepatitis A virus can spread when an infected food handler contaminates your food. This can happen if the food handler uses the toilet and does not wash his or her hands well before touching your food. Food can also become contaminated with hepatitis A virus during cooking, harvesting, or processing.

• Your food can be contaminated in four-star restaurants, bars, catered events, schools, or even at home.

• More than 550 persons got hepatitis A after eating at a single chain restaurant in Pennsylvania. Three persons died from liver failure. The outbreak was from onions that had been hepatitis A virus–contaminated during growing, harvesting, or processing.

For ready-to-copy 8 1/2 x 11" versions of these 2-page pieces, visit

www.immunize.org/catg.d/p4080.pdf

Vaccinate Adults! • October 2014 • Immunization Action Coalition • (651) 647-9009 • www.immunize.org • www.vaccineinformation.org

Technical content reviewed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Item #P4080 (7/14)

Technical content reviewed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Item #P2103 (7/14)

Technical content reviewed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Item #P203 (7/14)