Hepatitis A is a serious liver disease caused by a virus. The virus is found in the feces (poop) of infected people. The hepatitis A virus is spread when invisible particles of feces (poop) get into a person’s mouth. Your child can get hepatitis A by eating contaminated food or drinking contaminated water, or just by living with an infected person.

Yes. Hepatitis A can make a child’s skin and eyes turn yellow. Your child can get very sick for weeks, need to be hospitalized, and even die. Some people don’t look or feel sick, but they can still spread hepatitis A to others.

Everyone is at some risk for getting infected with hepatitis A. People who travel outside the U.S. have an increased chance of getting infected.

Vaccination is the best way to protect your child from hepatitis A. Young children should get 2 doses of the hepatitis A vaccine 6 months apart as part of their regular checkups. The first dose is given at 1 year of age.

Older children and teens who haven’t been vaccinated should get their 2 hepatitis A shots as soon as possible.

For more information, visit www.vaccineinformation.org