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 your mouth. You can get hepatitis A by eating contaminated food or water, during sex, or just by living with an infected person.

Yes. If you get infected with hepatitis A, your skin and eyes can turn yellow. You can get very sick for weeks and may need to be hospitalized, and even die. Some people don’t feel sick, but they can still spread the virus to others.

You are more likely to be infected with the virus if you travel or work outside the U.S., have chronic liver disease, use illegal drugs, have sex with an infected person, or care for a recently arrived unvaccinated child from a country where hepatitis A is common.

Vaccination is the best way to prevent hepatitis A.

Children (starting at age 2) and teens through age 18 should receive 2 doses of hepatitis A vaccine.

Adults should get vaccinated if they are at risk for hepatitis A, or if they simply want to be protected.