

# Hepatitis A Vaccine



*Vaccination is good protection*



This vaccine protects against hepatitis A and its complications. Hepatitis A is a liver infection caused by a virus (HAV).

	Hepatitis A is spread by:	Hepatitis A causes:	Possible complications:
<b>DISEASE</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contact with food or water contaminated by the stool of an infected person</li> </ul> <p><i>Young children infected with hepatitis A often have no symptoms but may spread the disease to those around them.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fever</li> <li>Fatigue</li> <li>Loss of appetite</li> <li>Jaundice</li> <li>Headache</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Severe liver disease</li> <li>Fatigue lasting several weeks</li> <li>Death (0.1-0.3% of cases)</li> </ul>

## VACCINE

Vaccination is the best protection against hepatitis A and its complications. The vaccine is recommended for those who want to reduce their risk of catching hepatitis A. More than one dose of vaccine is required to ensure the best possible protection.

The hepatitis A vaccine is safe. Most reactions are harmless and do not last long. Symptoms experienced after vaccination are not necessarily caused by the vaccine.

	Possible reactions to the vaccine:	What to do:
<b>REACTIONS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Slight tenderness (50% or more), swelling, and redness (10-49%), bruising (1-9%) at the injection site</li> </ul> <p><i>These reactions are less common in children.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Apply a cold, damp compress to the injection site</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Headache, muscle pain and fatigue (10-49%)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Take acetaminophen or ibuprofen if your temperature is 38.5°C or higher</li> <li>See a doctor if symptoms are severe</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Irritability (10-49%), rash (1-9%) in children aged 12 to 23 months</li> <li>Fever, gastro-intestinal problems, respiratory symptoms (1-9%)</li> </ul>	

As with any drug or biological product, an allergic reaction may occur. If a severe allergic reaction occurs, it begins within minutes and the person administering the vaccine will be able to treat it. That is why you are advised to remain at the clinic for at least 15 minutes after the vaccine is administered.

If you have any questions, ask the person administering the vaccine or contact Info-Santé (8-1-1) or your doctor.