

Health & Immunisation Management Services



Experienced, cost effective vaccination and health services

Information Sheets – Hepatitis A

About the Disease

Hepatitis A is an acute infection of the liver, caused by the Hepatitis A virus. The virus survives well in the environment - it persists on hands for several hours and in food kept at room temperature for considerably longer. It is relatively resistant to heat and freezing.

Hepatitis A is predominantly transmitted by the faecal-oral route. The disease is readily transmitted by person to person contact.

- Travellers to endemic areas (areas where Hepatitis A is commonly found)
- Child care and pre-school personnel
- Health care workers
- Sewage workers and plumbers

About the Vaccine

- There are several different brands of Hepatitis A vaccine. It is an inactivated vaccine that requires 2 doses 6-12 months apart.

Contraindications

- Hypersensitivity to any component of the vaccine (e.g. neomycin sulphate);
- Illness: Acute febrile illness;
- Pregnant women unless there is a substantial risk of exposure to Hepatitis A virus

Common Reactions to the Vaccine

- Fever
- Local soreness at the injection site
- Headache
- Fatigue

Should you experience any unexpected side effects you can seek medical advice from:

- ▣ Your GP
- ▣ Your Immunisation Provider
- ▣ The Immunisation Section (SA Health) 9am-4.30pm Monday –Friday
Telephone: 1300 232 272

After Hours

- ▣ If it is after hours, please call Health Direct 1800 022 222
- ▣ Or any Emergency Department