

# Fact Sheet

## Hepatitis A Virus

**Pathogenicity:** Many infections are asymptomatic. There may be abrupt onset with fever, malaise, anorexia, nausea and abdominal discomfort followed within a few days by jaundice. Illness can vary from mild to severely disabling. The convalescence is prolonged. Low case fatality rate and rare deaths usually in older patients

**Mode of Transmission:** Fecal-oral route. Ingestion of contaminated food and water. Rare instances of transmission by blood transfusion from a donor in the incubation period.

**Incubation Period:** From 15-50 days depending on dose. Average is 28-30 days.

**Communicability:** Transmission in humans shows maximum infectivity during the latter half of the incubation period, and continuing for a few days after onset of jaundice. Most cases are usually non-infectious after the first week of jaundice.

**Disinfectants:** Susceptible to 1% sodium hypochlorite, glutaraldehyde.

**Treatment:** Rest. Vaccine for active immunization is available and recommended especially for travelers to high risk areas