****

**Huntington County Health Department**

**1330 S. Jefferson Street**

**Huntington, IN 46750**

**Office (260) 358-4831 Fax (260) 358-4899**

**www.huntington.in.us**

The Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH) and Huntington County Health Department are investigating an increase in the number of hepatitis A cases.

Hepatitis A is a viral infection of the liver. Symptoms appear 15-50 days after exposure and may include abdominal pain, fatigue, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, dark urine, pale (clay- colored) stool, and jaundice (yellowing of skin and eyes). Hepatitis A virus is shed in stool and is spread by contaminated food, beverages, and ice through unwashed hands and person-to-person contact with people who are infected. People who are infected shed the virus for about three weeks before and after symptoms appear. The best way to stop the spread of hepatitis A is to wash your hands thoroughly with soap and warm water for at least 20 seconds after using the bathroom, changing diapers and before preparing meals for yourself and others. Good sanitary practices and hand hygiene are ways to stop the spread of hepatitis A and other viruses.

If you believe you have been exposed to hepatitis A or you are homeless, use injection or non-injection drugs, a man that has sex with other men, an individual with a recent jail stay, an individual with chronic liver disease or have close contact with a person in any of these categories, please see your healthcare provider for information about the hepatitis A vaccine.

To reduce the risk of hepatitis A transmission, people who have not received two doses of hepatitis A vaccine may contact their healthcare providers for more information.

For Additional Information:

[www.in.gov\isdh\25478.htm](http://www.in.gov\isdh\25478.htm)

[www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/hav/index.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/hav/index.htm)

[www.vaccinateindiana.org/diseaseinfo/hepatitisa/](http://www.vaccinateindiana.org/diseaseinfo/hepatitisa/)