

ARGENTINA: HEPATITIS A & UNSAFE WATER

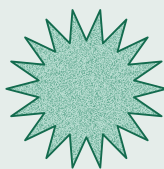
Hepatitis A is a contagious disease that causes inflammation in the liver. Hepatitis A is most prevalent in areas without adequate sanitation practices and with limited access to safe drinking water.



WHERE IS HEPATITIS A FOUND?

Hepatitis A is most prevalent in low and middle income countries. These areas include parts of South Asia (Bangladesh, India, Nepal, and Pakistan), parts of Sub-Saharan and North Africa, parts of the Far East (excluding Japan), South and Central America, and the Middle East.

HOW IS HEPATITIS A TRANSMITTED?



Hepatitis A is a virus transmitted through the ingestion of objects, food, or drinks contaminated with small amounts of fecal matter from an infected person, through sex with an infected person, or through injection drug use.

WHO IS IMPACTED?

Groups at higher risk include those who:

- Lack access to clean water
- Travel or work in areas of the world where hepatitis A is common
- Live with/have frequent contact with someone who has Hepatitis A
- Are unhoused
- Use drugs, whether injected or not

PREVENTION & TREATMENT

- Avoid pre-cut fruit and vegetables
- Wash all fruits and vegetables in clean water before consumption,
- Avoid raw or undercooked meat and fish
- Use clean or bottled water for consumption and when brushing teeth
- Thoroughly and frequently wash hands
- There is no specific treatment, as your body will clear the virus on its own, most commonly within six months

ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS IMPACTING HEPATITIS A

The most important environmental conditions to consider are access to sanitized water and hygienic living conditions. Areas with limited access to safe drinking water are at higher risk of being exposed to the risk of Hepatitis A.



TAKING ACTION: ARGENTINA'S VACCINATION SYSTEM



- In 2005, a single dose vaccine schedule in 12-month old children was implemented across Argentina.
- Since then, there has been notable positive results reported to the Ministry of Health as they assert that the incidence of Hepatitis A decreased to less than one case per every 100,000 inhabitants per year and no liver transplants associated with Hepatitis A have been reported since 2007.
- The age group most affected by Hepatitis A prevalence shifted from 5 to 9+ years in 2007 to 15-44 years in 2010.

HEPATITIS A & CLIMATE CONNECTION

As climate change impacts water-related weather patterns, such as floods, water sanitation systems may be overwhelmed and fail to provide clean water to citizens. Since Hepatitis A is largely contracted via consumption of unclean drinking water or food, changes in weather patterns can increase rates of Hepatitis A

