

Hepatitis A Infection Prevention & Control

Hepatitis A is a highly contagious liver infection caused by the hepatitis A virus. The hepatitis A virus is usually transmitted through the fecal-oral route, either through person-to-person contact or consumption of contaminated food or water. Contamination can occur when infected persons don't wash their hands properly after using the bathroom and then touching other objects or food items. Surfaces that are frequently touched should be cleaned and sanitized often including:

- Toilet Room Surfaces
- Kitchen Surfaces
- Doorknobs
- Recreation Equipment
- Light Switch Plates
- Phones
- Computer Keyboards
- Railings
- High Chairs
- Tables and Chairs
- Wheelchairs and Walkers
- Remote Controls

Effective Disinfectants

Chlorine Bleach: Mix and use the chlorine solution within 20 minutes. Allow 1 minute of contact time and then rinse with water.

- **5000 ppm:** 1 and 2/3 cups bleach in 1 gallon water. Use for stainless steel, food/mouth contact items, tile floors, nonporous surfaces, counters, sinks and toilets.

Other Disinfectants:

Other disinfectants may be approved for use if they are effective against hepatitis A. This must be clearly indicated on specification sheets or product label.

Note: Most Quaternary Ammonium disinfectants are **not effective** against hepatitis A. They may only be used if specifically stated on their label or specification sheets they are effective against hepatitis A.

Specific Cleaning Methods

Wear Gloves and Protect Your Clothing.

- **Hard Surfaces**
 - Disinfect surface with bleach, or other approved disinfectant ensuring 1 minute of contact time. If surface is in a food preparation area, make sure to rinse with water after.
- **Surfaces that are Corrodible or Damageable by Bleach**
 - Use registered products effective against hepatitis A.

For more information on cleaning and infection control for hepatitis A, call

Environmental Health: 888-700-9995

To report a suspected or confirmed hepatitis A case, contact Morbidity: Phone: (888) 397-3993

Fax: (888) 397-3778

Website: www.publichealth.lacounty.gov/acd/cdrs.htm

Steps to Clean Spills of Vomit or Feces

- Use personal protective equipment such as gloves, masks and gowns.
- Block-off area immediately.
- Clean up visible debris using disposable absorbent material (paper towels or other type of disposable cloths) and minimize aerosols.
- Discard soiled items carefully in an impervious plastic bag.
- Thoroughly clean affected area
- Disinfect area and objects surrounding the contamination with an appropriate disinfectant effective against hepatitis A. See box to the left "Effective Disinfectants" for 5000 ppm sanitizing solution.
- Take off gloves, gown and mask, in that order, and discard before exiting contaminated clean-up area.
- Place discarded PPE in an impervious plastic bag.
- Re-glove and transport bag to a secure trash container; do not allow the bag to come into contact with clothing.
- Always wash your hands after handling any contaminated material, trash or waste.

Proper Handling

- Use chemicals in well-ventilated areas.
- Avoid contact between incompatible chemicals.
- Prevent chemical contact with food during cleaning.
- Handle contaminated material as little as possible and with minimal agitation to reduce aerosols.
- Manage waste safely and dispose in a secure trash container.

