



# PUBLIC HEALTH FACT SHEET

## HEPATITIS A

Dear Parent:

This is to bring to your attention that a case of hepatitis A has been reported for a student in your child's classroom and to provide you with information about this disease. If your child exhibits any of the symptoms described, it is recommended that you consult your healthcare provider or the Department of Health in Duval County Epidemiology Program at 904-253-1850.

### **What is Hepatitis A?**

- a viral infection that causes liver inflammation

### **What are the symptoms of Hepatitis A?**

- Fever
- Tiredness, fatigue
- Loss of appetite
- Nausea
- Abdominal discomfort
- Dark brown or coffee colored urine
- Jaundice (yellowing of the skin and eyes)

### **How is Hepatitis A spread?**

- Infected food handler
- Consuming food or water contaminated with the feces of an infected person

### **How can Hepatitis A be prevented?**

- There is a vaccine available to prevent Hepatitis A
- Thorough hand washing after using the bathroom and before eating or preparing food

### **Implications for school**

- Exclude students or staff
- Must have a healthcare provider's note to return

Resources:

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention:  
[www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)

American Academy of Pediatrics:  
<https://healthychildren.org/English/health-issues/conditions/abdominal/Pages/FoodPoisoning-and-Food-Contamination.aspx>