



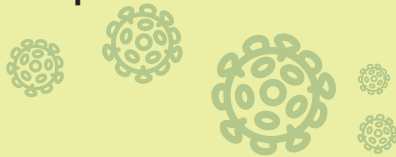
Hepatitis A

County Health Department Investigation Timeline

FloridaHealth.gov • Florida Department of Health

TIMELINE ASSUMES THAT CONTACTS ARE KNOWLEDGEABLE AND AVAILABLE FOR TIMELY INTERVIEWS

Susceptible person is exposed to virus by unknowingly consuming the virus from an infected person, or surfaces or items the infected person touched.



DAY 1

The person seeks medical attention. Laboratory tests are ordered by a health care provider, hospital or laboratory.

- A county health department (CHD) receives results usually within 1–3 days.
- Positive results are required to be reported within 24 hours.

7 DAYS LATER ON AVERAGE

WITHIN 1–3 BUSINESS DAYS

The CHD:

Looks for risk factors. The person will be interviewed about their activities during the 50 days before illness.

Identifies the person’s close contacts. Vaccine and prevention measures recommended.

Provides vaccine to those who are uninsured, underinsured or have other barriers to vaccine.

Determines if the person is in an occupation that puts others at risk. Further assessment conducted and additional prevention measures recommended.

Enters data into the statewide surveillance system.



15–50 DAYS LATER ON AVERAGE

The person develops illness.



WITHIN 1 BUSINESS DAY

The CHD begins an investigation by requesting medical records and additional laboratory results.



If an outbreak is detected, the CHD will likely do additional investigations to uncover more details needed to explain the cause of the outbreak.

ADDITIONAL FACTS

- To detect clusters with similar exposures, a CHD routinely compares risk factor information to other hepatitis A cases.
- Cases are reported to a CHD an average of 11 days after symptom onset.
- About 20% of cases are linked to other known hepatitis A cases.

- About 40% of cases are found to have no or unknown risk factors for hepatitis A infection.
- Death investigations may be delayed by the sensitive nature of interviewing grieving family members, friends or others close to the deceased and the limited knowledge available on a deceased person’s activities.