Hepatitis A

Australian national notifiable diseases case definition

This document contains the surveillance case definition for hepatitis A, which is nationally notifiable within Australia. State and territory health departments use this definition to decide whether to notify the Australian Government Department of Health, Disability and Ageing of a case.

Version	Status	Last reviewed	Implementation date
1.2	**Laboratory definitive evidence** Updated to include an option for "Seroconversion from hepatitis A IgG negative to positive in the absence of vaccination within the last 12 weeks." **Laboratory suggestive evidence** Replaced "Detection of hepatitis A-specific IgM, in the absence of recent vaccination" with "Detection of hepatitis A-specific IgM, in the absence of recent vaccination in the last 12 weeks." **Clinical evidence** • Replaced "Child less than 5 years of age" with "Child less than 5 years of age AND at least one of the following signs and symptoms: fever; malaise; abdominal discomfort; loss of appetite; nausea; jaundice or dark urine" • Replaced "Jaundice or dark urine or abnormal liver function tests that reflect viral hepatitis" with "Jaundice or dark urine or alanine transaminase (ALT) ten times the upper limit of normal." **Epidemiological evidence** • Clarified the illness is to be "compatible with hepatitis A infection" • Addition of "OR is a child less than 5 years of age" to the contact criteria	2025	1 January 2026

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	• Replaced "(from two weeks before the onset of jaundice to a week after the onset of jaundice)" with "(from two weeks before the onset of prodromal symptoms to either one week after the onset of jaundice [if jaundice occurs], OR two weeks after the onset of prodromal symptoms [if jaundice does not occur])" Formatting changes throughout for clarity		
1.1	**Confirmed case** Added 'either' and 'OR Laboratory suggestive evidence AND clinical evidence OR laboratory suggestive evidence AND epidemiological evidence.' **Laboratory definitive evidence** Removed 'Detection of anti-hepatitis A IgM, in the absence of recent vaccination.' **Laboratory definitive evidence** Added 'Detection of hepatitis A virus by nucleic acid testing.' **Laboratory suggestive evidence** Added 'Detection of hepatitis A-specific IgM, in the absence of recent vaccination.' **Clinical evidence** Changed to 'Child less than 5 years of age OR Acute illness with discrete onset of at least two of the following signs and symptoms: fever; malaise; abdominal discomfort; loss of appetite; nausea AND jaundice or dark urine or abnormal liver function tests that reflect viral hepatitis.'	CDWG 13 August 2012	1 January 2013
1.0	Initial CDNA case definition	2004	2004

Reporting

Both **confirmed cases** and **probable cases** should be notified.

Confirmed case

A confirmed case requires either:

- **laboratory definitive evidence**

  OR

- **laboratory suggestive evidence** AND **clinical evidence**

  OR

- **laboratory suggestive evidence** AND **epidemiological evidence**.

Probable case

A **probable case** requires **clinical evidence** AND **epidemiological evidence**.

Laboratory definitive evidence

Detection of hepatitis A virus by nucleic acid testing

OR

Seroconversion from hepatitis A IgG negative to positive in the absence of vaccination within the last 12 weeks.

Laboratory suggestive evidence

Detection of hepatitis A-specific IgM, in the absence of vaccination in the last 12 weeks.

Clinical evidence

- Child less than 5 years of age

  AND

  at least one of the following signs and symptoms: fever; malaise; abdominal discomfort; loss of appetite; nausea; jaundice or dark urine

  OR

- Acute illness with discrete onset of at least two of the following signs and symptoms: fever; malaise; abdominal discomfort; loss of appetite; nausea

  AND

  Jaundice or dark urine or alanine transaminase (ALT) ten times the upper limit of normal.

Epidemiological evidence

Contact between two people involving a plausible mode of transmission at a time when:

a. one of them is likely to be infectious (from two weeks before the onset of prodromal symptoms to either one week after the onset of jaundice [if jaundice occurs], OR two weeks after the onset of prodromal symptoms [if jaundice does not occur])

AND

b. the other has an illness compatible with hepatitis A infection that started within 15 to 50 (average 28–30) days after this contact OR is a child less than 5 years of age

AND

At least one case in the chain of epidemiologically linked cases (which may involve many cases) is laboratory confirmed.