

Hepatitis A Vaccine Recommended for Parents Adopting Children

U.S. citizens who expect to have close contact with an adopted child from countries with high rates of hepatitis A should be immunized if they have not been already, U.S. immunization advisers said on Wednesday.

The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices, which advises the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, said unvaccinated people who will have close contact with such a child should get the vaccine within 60 days of the adoptee's arrival in the United States from most countries in the world with the exception of North America, Western Europe, Australia, New Zealand and Japan.

Hepatitis A is a highly contagious viral infection of the liver caused by putting something into the mouth that was contaminated with stool. Symptoms can include fever, jaundice, nausea and vomiting.