Infection Control
Pathogen Primer

Hepatitis A

Hepatitis A explained
Hepatitis A is liver disease, or more appropriately the inflammation of the liver, that is caused by a virus in humans.

How you get sick from Hepatitis A
Hepatitis A is contagious and is developed when a person ingests fecal matter of an infected person through food, drinks, or contact with contaminated surfaces. A person could also contract the Hepatitis A virus through oral-anal sexual intercourse.

Information about Hepatitis A
• Hepatitis A is not a chronic liver disease.
• People can become immune to this virus after contracting it.
• Hepatitis A can survive in the acidic digestive system and live outside the human body for months.

Other Information
Hepatitis A is the least severe virus of the Hepatitis family. A person who contracts Hepatitis A could be sick for weeks or months and would not have detrimental liver damage. Death could occur due to liver failure, however, this occurrence is rare.

Infection Control Strategies
Early vaccination, proper handling and cooking of foods, frequent hand washing, and proper sanitation of surfaces. More info on the CDC Hepatitis A Webpage.

Multi-Clean Disinfectant Products
• Chlorinated Tablets
• Microcide TB