

**Massachusetts Department of Public Health
Massachusetts Immunization Program
Human Immune Globulin Information Sheet**

What does Immune Globulin (IG) do?

- Immune globulin (IG) may prevent hepatitis A, or make the symptoms less severe if it is given before or within 2 weeks of exposure to hepatitis A virus. IG can provide protection for 3-5 months.

Who should receive IG?

- Children and adults who have been exposed to hepatitis A virus, within two weeks of exposure.
- Travelers to areas with high rates of hepatitis A who are allergic to a vaccine component or whose time prior to departure is < 4 weeks, should receive IG, if they do not receive hepatitis A vaccine.

Who should contact their health care provider before receiving IG?

- Persons with a serious allergic reaction to a previous dose of IG.
- Persons with a serious allergic reaction to latex. Most people who have contact allergy to latex can receive IG.
- Persons with certain antibody deficiencies (such as immunoglobulin A deficiency). These persons may receive a special form of IG by vein.
- Persons who have severe problems with bleeding. Your provider may decide it is safe for you to receive IG in your arm, or they may decide to give it to you by vein.

Can I receive IG if I am pregnant?

- Yes. Pregnant women can get IG and it should be considered for pregnant women at increased risk for exposure hepatitis A infection or after exposure to hepatitis A infection, if they have not received hepatitis A vaccine.

What are the risks from IG?

- Pain and tenderness at the site where the IG was given, itching, hives and swelling also may occur.
- Severe allergic reactions are rare.

What if I just received, or will soon receive, MMR (measles, mumps, rubella) and/or varicella (chickenpox) vaccines?

- If you received MMR and/or varicella vaccine in the last 2 weeks, you can receive IG today. However, you should receive MMR and/or varicella again in 3 months, or get a blood test at that time to see if you are protected against measles, mumps, and rubella, and/or chickenpox.
- If you are planning to get the MMR and/or varicella vaccine in the near future, you should wait 3 months after receiving IG.