



HOW IS HCV TREATED?

HCV can be treated with medication called antivirals.

The antivirals will be given to you from the nurse at the health centre if you test positive for hepatitis C.

IMPORTANT!

The antivirals must be taken every day for 8-12 weeks to have the best chance of clearing the infection.



For more information or for testing information, please call or visit your local community health centre.

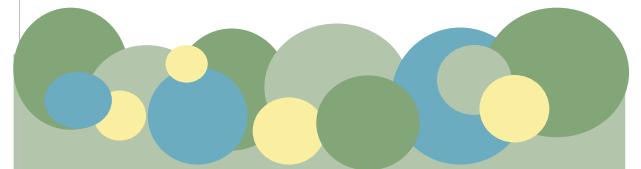
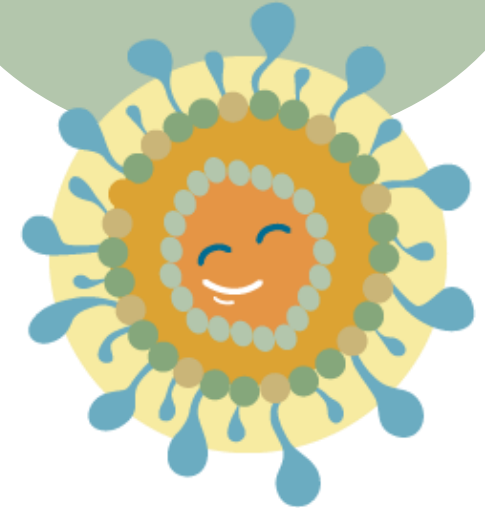
To contact STC:

 (306) 956-6100

 www.sktc.sk.ca

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HEPATITIS C VIRUS (HCV)



**SASKATOON TRIBAL COUNCIL
(STC)**

WHAT IS HCV?

The hepatitis C virus is a **sexually transmitted blood borne infection (STBBI)**, that can infect anyone who is sexually active.



HOW DO YOU GET HEPATITIS C?

Hepatitis C can be spread by:

- Having **unprotected** sex where blood may be present with a person who has hepatitis C.
- Sharing items that may come in contact with blood (needles, razors, toothbrushes, etc.).
- A pregnant person who has hepatitis C, passing the infection to their baby during pregnancy and birth.

SIGNS & SYMPTOMS OF HEPATITIS C VIRUS

The hepatitis C virus can cause both acute and chronic hepatitis, which is a liver disease.

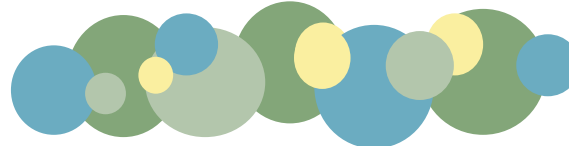
Symptoms from HCV may not appear right after infection. Sometimes symptoms do not develop until years after infection.

Symptoms of acute hepatitis C infection may include:

- Tiredness
- Not feeling hungry, weight loss
- Yellowing of the skin (jaundice)
- Rash
- Feeling like you need to throw up (nausea)
- Dark-coloured pee and light-colored poop

Symptoms of chronic hepatitis C infection may include:

- Yellowing of the skin (jaundice)
- Blood in poop
- Blood in vomit
- Swelling of the abdomen
- Itchy skin
- Brain disease



WHO IS AT RISK?

- Those who have sex with a person who has HCV
- Those who have unprotected sex.
- Those who use intravenous (IV) or injection drugs.

HOW CAN I PROTECT MYSELF?

- Do not have unprotected oral, vaginal, or anal sex.
- Use condoms every time you have sex.
- Always use new, sterile needles
- Always go to a professional for tattoos and piercings
- Get tested regularly.
- Make sure your partner gets tested.

HOW DO I GET TESTED?

A blood test is needed to diagnose HCV. A nurse will insert a small needle into a vein in your hand or arm to get this blood sample.

This can be done at your health centre by a nurse from STC!