



## HEPATITIS C FACT SHEET

### WHAT IS HEPATITIS C?

Hepatitis C is an infection of the liver that results from the Hepatitis C virus. Acute Hepatitis C refers to the first several months after someone is infected. Unfortunately, most people who get infected are not able to clear the Hepatitis C virus and develop a chronic, or lifelong, infection

### HOW DO YOU GET HEPATITIS C?

Hepatitis C is usually spread when blood from a person infected with the Hepatitis C virus enters the body of someone who is not infected. People can become infected by

- Sharing needles or other equipment to inject drugs
- Needle stick injuries in health care settings
- Being born to a mother who has Hepatitis C. Less commonly, a person can get Hepatitis C by sharing personal care items such as razors or toothbrushes or by having sexual contact with a person infected with Hepatitis C

### SYMPTOMS

Approximately 70%–80% of people with acute Hepatitis C do not have any symptoms. Some people, however, can have mild to severe symptoms soon after being infected, including;

- Fever
- Fatigue
- Loss of appetite
- Nausea
- Vomiting
- Abdominal pain
- Dark urine
- Clay-colored bowel movements
- Joint pain Jaundice (yellow color in the skin or eyes)

### TREATMENT

Effective treatments are available. People who do not have any symptoms or signs of babesiosis usually do not need to be treated. Discuss treatment options with your doctor.

### PREVENTION

Antibiotics can prevent anthrax from developing in people who have been exposed, but do not have symptoms. Discuss preventative options with your doctor. While there is a vaccine licensed to prevent anthrax, it is not typically available for the general public. Currently, FDA has not approved the vaccine for use after exposure for anyone. However, if there were ever an anthrax emergency, people who are exposed might be given the anthrax vaccine to help prevent disease.

### DPHD EFFORTS:

Reports of suspected and confirmed cases of disease are made to the Delaware Public Health District (DPHD). The DPHD investigates potential sources of illness, conducts surveillance for the spread of disease, and engages in community outreach and education. In addition, The DPHD coordinates with local and state agencies in the planning and response to emergencies.