

# Avaxim<sup>®</sup>, Havrix<sup>®</sup> and Vaqta<sup>®</sup> Vaccine (Hepatitis A Vaccine)

## Avaxim<sup>®</sup>, Havrix<sup>®</sup> and Vaqta<sup>®</sup> are vaccines that protect against hepatitis A

- Each vaccine works equally well
- Two doses of vaccine given at least six months apart are required for full protection
- The vaccine is given as an injection in the upper arm
- Paediatric versions of these vaccines are also available

### Side effects may include:

- Redness, swelling or discomfort at the injection site
  - Slight fever, headache, weakness, muscle or joint pain
- Severe side effects are rare.

### People should delay or avoid this immunization if they:

- Have a fever or are fighting a recent infection
- Have an allergy to aluminum, neomycin, latex or formaldehyde

### Hepatitis A

- Is an infection that causes inflammation and swelling of the liver
- Is caused by the hepatitis A virus
- Can cause fever, fatigue, loss of appetite, nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain, and jaundice (yellow skin and eyes)
- Does not always produce symptoms, but the infected person can still spread the virus to others
- Spreads through the feces of an infected person. The virus can spread by:
  - Touching an infected person's stool (for example, changing an infected baby's diaper), and then eating or drinking with your hands
  - Eating food made by someone who touched infected stool
  - Eating food harvested from contaminated waters (such as raw or undercooked molluscs) or contaminated produce such as lettuce and strawberries
  - Drinking water or drinks with ice cubes that are contaminated by infected stool (a problem in developing countries)
  - Having oral-anal sex with an infected person

For further information, please call:

**York Region Health Connection 1-800-361-5653**

**TTY 1-866-252-9933 or visit [www.york.ca](http://www.york.ca)**

