



Local Health Advisory

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Community Outbreak of Hepatitis A Virus (HAV) in Ohio

Summary

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and state and local health departments are investigating hepatitis A outbreaks in multiple states among persons reporting drug use and/or homelessness and their contacts. This Health Alert alerts healthcare facilities and programs providing services to affected populations about these outbreaks of hepatitis A infections and provides guidance to assist in identifying and preventing new infections.

Ohio is now experiencing a Community Outbreak of Hepatitis A. There are no cases of Hepatitis A in Logan County at this time. Outbreaks are occurring in multiple states across the US, including several bordering Ohio (i.e. Indiana, Kentucky, and Michigan). Some Ohio cases are associated with outbreaks in neighboring states.

Recommendations for Health Care Providers

1. Consider hepatitis A as a diagnosis in anyone with jaundice and clinically compatible symptoms
2. Encourage persons who have been exposed recently to HAV and who have not been vaccinated to be administered one dose of single-antigen hepatitis A vaccine or immune globulin (IG) as soon as possible, **within 2 weeks after exposure**. Guidelines vary by age and health status (please
3. Consider saving serum samples for additional testing to assist public health officials in the investigation of transmission (i.e., confirmation of antibody test, HAV RNA test, genotyping, and sequencing).
4. Ensure all persons diagnosed with hepatitis A are reported to the Logan County Health District (LCHD) in a timely manner.
5. Encourage hepatitis A vaccination for homeless individuals in areas where hepatitis A outbreaks are occurring.
6. Encourage hepatitis A vaccination for persons who report drug use or other risk factors for hepatitis A.
7. CDC recommends the following groups be vaccinated against hepatitis A:
 - All children at age 1 year
 - Persons who are at increased risk for infection: Persons who are at increased risk for complications from hepatitis A, including people with chronic liver diseases, such as hepatitis B or hepatitis C.
 - Persons traveling to or working in countries that have high or intermediate endemicity of hepatitis A;
 - Men who have sex with men;
 - Persons who use injection and non-injection drugs;
 - Persons who have occupational risk for infection;
 - Persons who have chronic liver disease;
 - Persons who have clotting-factor disorders;
 - Household members and other close personal contacts or adopted children newly arriving from countries with high or intermediate hepatitis A endemicity; and

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- Persons with direct contact with persons who have hepatitis A.
- Any person wishing to obtain immunity.

Reporting

Hepatitis A is a class B reportable disease in Ohio, meaning cases are required to be reported by the next business day. Please report all cases to the Logan County Health District (LCHD) by calling (937) 592-9040 or fax reports to our secure fax line- 937-592-6746

For more information

On hepatitis A visit: <https://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/hav>

On the current outbreak visit: <https://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/outbreaks/2017March-HepatitisA.htm>

6/20/2018 Ohio Hepatitis A Outbreak Case Definition

CLINICAL CRITERIA

An acute illness with a discrete onset since January 1, 2018 of any sign or symptom consistent with acute viral hepatitis (e.g. fever, headache, malaise, anorexia, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, and abdominal pain), and either

- jaundice, OR
- elevated aspartate aminotransferase (AST) or alanine aminotransferase (ALT) levels (>200 U/L)

LABORATORY CRITERIA

- Immunoglobulin M (IgM) antibody to hepatitis A virus (anti-HAV) positive, OR
- Nucleic acid amplification test (NAAT) for hepatitis A virus RNA positive (including PCR or genotype testing)

CONFIRMED HEPATITIS A OUTBREAK CASE

- A case with a specimen that matches the circulating outbreak strain (genotype 1B), OR
- A case that meets the clinical and laboratory criteria, OR
- A case that meets the clinical criteria and occurs in a person who has an epidemiologic link with a person who has laboratory-confirmed hepatitis A (i.e., household contact, drug partner, or sexual contact with an infected person during the 15–50 days before the onset of symptoms)

EXCLUSIONS

A case will be excluded if any of the following conditions apply:

- In the absence of known risk factors (illicit drug use, men who have sex with men, homelessness, incarceration, or domestic travel to an area with a known outbreak), any illness that occurs in a patient who reports travel to a country or U.S. territory with endemic hepatitis A during the 15–50 days before symptom onset, OR
- Specimen is identified as any genotype other than 1B, OR
- Specimen collected within four weeks of symptom onset is negative for HAV RNA, OR
- A more likely clinical explanation is available to account for clinical symptoms and laboratory findings

Logan County Health District (LCHD) is working to provide this important vaccine to those in the risk groups and any person wishing to obtain immunity. The LCHD will also offer Hepatitis A vaccine to adults who are uninsured and under insured while supplies last through our routine vaccine clinics. Healthcare providers who do not carry this vaccine may refer patients to the health district or a local pharmacy for vaccination.

Please call the Logan County Health District to register for vaccines at 937-651-6186

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