



County of Sacramento

HEPATITIS A ADVISORY
September 20, 2017

Situational Update

Outbreaks of hepatitis A disease are currently ongoing in two California counties (San Diego County and Santa Cruz County) in persons who are homeless and/or using illicit drugs. Transmission is presumed to occur person-to-person. There has been no known local transmission of cases with the same strain of hepatitis A virus (HAV) within Sacramento County this year. Sacramento County Public Health (SCPH) is actively engaged with the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) and other county agencies in developing a preventive action plan to protect the public. Based on current information, all populations who are homeless or using injection and non-injection illicit drugs can be considered at risk of outbreaks if exposed to HAV. Please see the actions requested of clinicians below:

Actions Requested of All Clinicians:

1. **Offer** HAV vaccine to persons at high risk of infection, including:
 - Homeless
 - Injection and non-injection illicit drug users
 - Healthcare and other service workers (i.e. staff at homeless shelters and jails)
 - Sanitation workers
 - Food handlers

**Health insurance plans will be notified by separate communication with a request to cover hepatitis A vaccine.
2. **Consider** hepatitis A disease among patients presenting with compatible symptoms, especially among the homeless and injection or non-injection illicit drug users.
3. **Report** laboratory confirmed (**IgM** positive only) and/or outbreak-related hepatitis A cases to SCPH electronically – via CalREDIE or confidential fax at (916) 854-9709 – within ONE working day of identifying the case.
4. **Educate** patients at high risk of infection about proper hand hygiene after using the restroom and before preparing food or eating.

For information about hepatitis A disease, visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention at <https://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/hav/index.htm> or the CDPH's website at <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/Immunization/Hepatitis-A.aspx>.

SCPH can be reached 24/7 at (916) 875-5881.

Sincerely,

Olivia Kasirye, MD, MS
Public Health Officer