

Hepatitis A

Information for Homeless/Transient Populations

Hepatitis A is a serious liver disease caused by the hepatitis A virus (HAV). Currently, several states including West Virginia are seeing an increase of HAV cases, and an outbreak has been declared in multiple states. **Homeless and transient individuals** are at high risk for contracting hepatitis A during this outbreak and should **seek a hepatitis A vaccine**.

HOW IS HEPATITIS A SPREAD?



Not washing hands
with soap and
running water



Illicit injection and
non-injection
drug use



Eating/drinking
food contaminated
with HAV



Sex with HAV-
infected partners

HEPATITIS A SYMPTOMS

Jaundice (Yellowing of the skin or eyes) ▪ Fever ▪ Nausea ▪ Vomiting ▪
Joint Pain ▪ Fatigue ▪ Loss of Appetite ▪ Dark Urine ▪
Abdominal pain ▪ Light-colored bowel movements

WHO IS AT HIGH RISK?

- People currently homeless or in transient living
- People who use illegal drugs
- Men who have sex with men (MSM)
- People recently in jail or prison

PREVENTING HEPATITIS A

Wash hands with soap and water after using the bathroom and before preparing food or eating. Hand sanitizer does not kill hepatitis A virus.



Get vaccinated for Hepatitis A if you are at high risk. High-risk individuals can get vaccinated for free at their local health department.

