

Hepatitis A Toolkit for Homeless Service Providers



RESOURCES AND EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS



HepAwareWV

Click on the link above to visit the DHHR Hepatitis A outbreak webpage



CDC HAV

Click the link above to visit the CDC Hepatitis A webpage

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October 2018

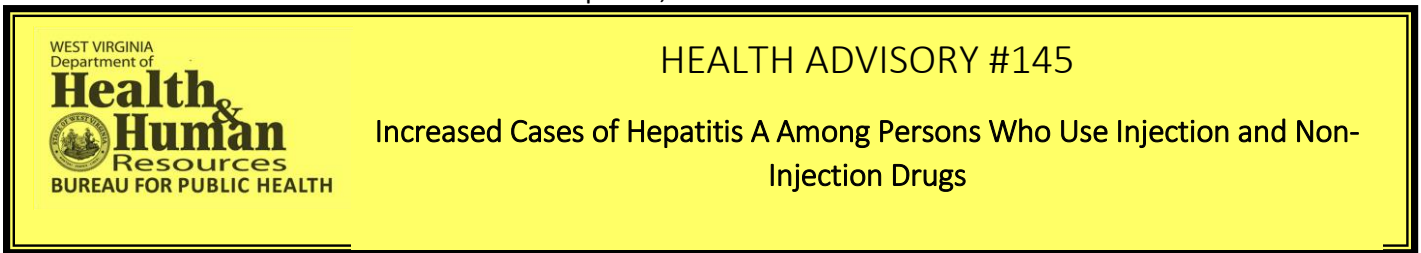
Dear West Virginia Homeless Service Providers:

Since March 2018, the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources (DHHR), Bureau for Public Health (BPH), has seen an increase in the number of confirmed cases of acute hepatitis A virus (HAV). Viral sequencing has linked several cases with outbreaks in twelve other states. As of November 9, 2018, 1,774 cases have been reported in West Virginia. Among the cases reported, 11% are homeless and 75% of cases report illicit drug use. Outbreaks of hepatitis A are typically expected to last one to two years.

As a service provider to the homeless and those with unstable housing, you may come into contact with populations at high-risk for hepatitis A infection. BPH designed this toolkit to provide homeless service providers with resources to protect themselves and the populations that they serve.

The Hepatitis A Toolkit for Homeless Service Providers contains the Health Advisory from the Commissioner and State Health Officer, information regarding the basics of the hepatitis A outbreak, precautions for meal and shelter providers, disinfection guidelines, instructions for requesting state-funded vaccine, key contact information, and informational flyers. Please feel free to share this toolkit widely with other providers who serve the homeless population.

For the most current information regarding the ongoing hepatitis A outbreak in West Virginia, visit DHHR's Division of Infectious Disease Epidemiology (DIDE) website or click the following link, hepawarewv.org. Thank you for the work you do to keep all West Virginians healthy.



TO: West Virginia Healthcare Providers, Hospitals and other Healthcare Facilities

FROM: Rahul Gupta, MD, MPH, FACP, Commissioner and State Health Officer
WVDHHR, Bureau for Public Health

DATE: April 20, 2018

LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENTS: PLEASE DISTRIBUTE TO COMMUNITY HEALTH PROVIDERS, HOSPITAL-BASED PHYSICIANS, INFECTION PREVENTIONISTS, LABORATORY DIRECTORS, AND OTHER APPLICABLE PARTNERS

OTHER RECIPIENTS: PLEASE DISTRIBUTE TO ASSOCIATION MEMBERS, STAFF, ETC.

West Virginia is reporting an increase in hepatitis A virus (HAV) cases in some counties, namely Kanawha and Putnam. Several have been molecularly linked to the multi-state outbreak in which genotype 1B is the HAV strain of concern; other cases have been epidemiologically-linked to cases from Kentucky.

To date, 17 West Virginia cases have been hospitalized at four area hospitals. Cases are highly mobile, and many have been discharged against medical advice making it challenging for public health to follow-up with appropriate surveillance and prevention actions. Coinfections with hepatitis B (HBV) and hepatitis C (HCV) are prevalent. Methamphetamine and illicit drug use generally have been documented in many cases.

Because many states are experiencing large HAV outbreaks, increased demand for vaccine that has resulted in restricted distribution. The West Virginia Bureau for Public Health (WVBPH) is working with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to provide HAV vaccine to affected counties. Requests for vaccine must go through the Division of Infectious Disease Epidemiology (DIDE). Vaccination campaigns should target contacts of HAV cases, homeless persons, and persons who use injection and non-injection drugs.

Healthcare providers who suspect HAV in patients are recommended to:

- Conduct a complete HAV, HBV, and HCV serology panel on symptomatic patients.
- Report suspected cases to the local health department **immediately**.
- Inform patients that someone from the local health department will contact them for follow-up.
- Offer HAV vaccine to persons who are homeless and/or use injection and non-injection drugs.
- Retain serum specimens for confirmatory testing and possible molecular testing at CDC.

The WVBPH is seeking collaboration with various partners including substance use treatment facilities, homeless shelters, harm reduction programs, free clinics, and correctional facilities to disseminate information to high risk populations. Information about the HAV and the current outbreak can be found at: https://dhhr.wv.gov/oeps/disease/viral-hepatitis/pages/hepA_outbreak.aspx.

For additional information contact DIDE at: (304) 558-5358, extension 1; (800) 423-1271, extension 1; or the answering service: (304) 925-9946.

General Information on West Virginia's Hepatitis A Outbreak for Homeless Service Providers

Background

Since March 2018, BPH has reported an increase in the number of confirmed cases of acute hepatitis A. As of November 9, 2018, there have been 1,774 cases of hepatitis A, with cases in 39 of the state's 55 counties. Most of the cases have been concentrated in Kanawha and Putnam counties, but the outbreak continues to grow and spread. Hepatitis A is a highly contagious liver infection. Illness can last from a few weeks to a few months. Although rare, hepatitis A may result in death. For the most up-to-date information on the outbreak, visit hepawarewv.org.

Disease Transmission

Hepatitis A is spread primarily person-to-person through the fecal-oral route. When someone ingests food or water or touches a surface that has been contaminated with the feces of an infected person, he or she can become infected with the virus. The HAV can live outside the body for months. Hepatitis A is usually spread through close personal contact with an infected person, which could occur among household contacts or between sexual partners. Anyone who hasn't been vaccinated against hepatitis A or has not had hepatitis A before is susceptible to infection.

People at Risk

While anyone can contract hepatitis A, some populations are at higher risk of infections than others. West Virginia is seeing more cases among persons who use injection or non-injection drugs, as well as those who are homeless or highly mobile. Because hepatitis A spreads easily when proper hygiene is compromised, homeless populations may be especially vulnerable to hepatitis A infection.

Symptoms

Symptoms of hepatitis A include:

- | | | | |
|--------------------------------------------|-----------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| • Yellowing of the skin or eyes (jaundice) | • Dark urine | • Abdominal pain | • Vomiting |
| | • Clay-colored stools | • Fever | • Loss of appetite |
| | | • Fatigue | • Nausea |

Anyone experiencing these symptoms should see his or her healthcare provider right away to get tested for hepatitis A. People typically recover from hepatitis A within a few weeks to a few months. Once someone recovers from hepatitis A, there is no need for vaccination, because the person cannot become infected with hepatitis A again.

Prevention

Hepatitis A can be prevented. **Vaccination** is the simplest way to protect oneself against hepatitis A, and one dose of the vaccine is very effective at preventing infection. Throughout the outbreak, BPH **highly recommends** vaccination for the following groups:

- People who are homeless or who do not have stable housing
- People who use drugs
- People who were recently in jail (within the past six weeks)
- People who have regular contact with populations that meet any of the criteria above

Anyone falling into any of the groups above is eligible to receive a vaccine at no cost. These no cost vaccines are available at most local health departments in West Virginia. Many insurance plans also cover the cost of the hepatitis A vaccine.

Healthcare providers may request state-funded vaccine to vaccinate high-risk populations. For more information on requesting vaccine, see [page 5](#) of this document.

Proper hand washing, with soap and running water, is also important to stop the spread of the virus. Wash hands for 20 seconds after using the bathroom, before preparing or eating food, and after changing a diaper. Hand sanitizer **does not kill** the HAV.

The ongoing hepatitis A outbreak has primarily affected persons who use drugs (injection or non-injection) and people who are homeless or with unstable housing. As a result, BPH is highly recommending vaccination of the following high-risk populations:

- Persons who use drugs (injection or non-injection)
- Persons who are homeless or have unstable housing
- Persons who were recently in jail (within the past six weeks)
- Persons who have regular contact with populations who meet any of the criteria above

To facilitate vaccination of these populations, BPH has obtained vaccines and made them available for healthcare providers to vaccinate these populations. This vaccine is to be provided at no cost to adults who fall into at least one of the high-risk groups described above.

Healthcare providers, including community mental health centers, can request vaccine at no cost through the Division of Infectious Disease Epidemiology (DIDE) to enhance vaccination efforts and protect populations at risk.

BPH recommends **one dose** of the adult hepatitis A vaccine. One dose of hepatitis A vaccine has been shown to provide effective protection during an outbreak. Protective anti-HAV levels after a single dose of inactivated hepatitis A vaccine have been demonstrated to persist for at least 11 years.

Providers wishing to use state-funded vaccine should follow the steps below:

1. Order vaccine.

Providers may request up to 100 doses of vaccine per order. There is no limit on the number of orders each provider can place.

- Vaccines for Children (VFC) providers may place vaccine order requests online through the West Virginia Immunization Information System (WVSIIS). Vaccine orders will be shipped directly to the requesting provider. These providers must report all hepatitis A doses administered to WVSIIS via direct data entry or file submission.
- Non-VFC providers must fax a vaccine request form to DIDE. This form can be accessed at dhhr.wv.gov/oeps/disease/viral-hepatitis/documents/hepAOB/HAV_vaccine_req_form.pdf and is also included as an appendix to this toolkit.

Vaccines are shipped in pre-filled syringes. If your agency or organization requires needles, please indicate this when you make a request for vaccine. BPH will provide needles only when specified in the request.

2. Pick up your vaccine order.

- For VFC providers, vaccine orders will be shipped as usual.
- For non-VFC providers, vaccines and needles (if applicable) will be shipped to the local health department.* A local health department directory is included as an appendix in this toolkit. Once the local health department receives the vaccine, they will contact the ordering organization or agency to notify them that the vaccine is available for pickup. **When vaccine is picked up, it must be stored in the refrigerator at a temperature between 36 and 46 degrees Fahrenheit (2 to 8 degrees Celsius).**

*Vaccine will not be shipped during the week of Thanksgiving (November 19 through November 23) or the week between Christmas and New Year's Eve (December 24 through December 28).

3. Screen clients for eligibility.

An agency may already know which of its clients should be offered the hepatitis A vaccine. Otherwise, DIDE has developed a screening tool to determine need for hepatitis A vaccine that can be administered to clients. This screening tool can be found at dhhr.wv.gov/oeps/disease/viral-hepatitis/documents/hepAOB/hAV_vaccine_screening.pdf and is also included as an [appendix](#) to this toolkit.

Instructions for providers on using the screening tool can be found at dhhr.wv.gov/oeps/disease/viral-hepatitis/documents/hepAOB/HAV_vaccine_screen_instructions.pdf and are also included as an [appendix](#) to this toolkit.

Any patient meeting at least one of the criteria in the screening tool is eligible to receive the state-funded vaccine. It does not matter what risk category a patient falls into. Providers may not charge for the cost of the state-funded vaccine.

4. Log vaccine administrations and submit log to DIDE.

- VFC providers must report all hepatitis A doses administered to WVSIS via direct data entry or file submission.
- Non-VFC providers must log each administration of state-funded vaccine using the Hepatitis A State-Funded Vaccine Administration Log (see [appendix](#)). Instructions for completing the Vaccine Administration Log are included as an appendix to this document. Vaccine logs for each month should be submitted no later than the 10th of the following month. For example, vaccines administered in October must be reported in the vaccine log and submitted by November 10. Submit vaccine logs to DIDE by fax at (304) 558-8736.

Special Information for Meal and Shelter Providers for the Homeless During the Hepatitis A Outbreak

In response to a recent outbreak of hepatitis A in West Virginia, BPH and your local health department are providing the following guidance to homeless providers in West Virginia. Your help is needed to prevent additional illnesses and possible outbreaks in your service establishment.

The current outbreak has primarily affected homeless individuals and people who use illicit drugs. Those who frequently work with homeless persons, especially workers and volunteers who clean kitchens and bathrooms, are recommended to get the hepatitis A vaccine. **We recommend one dose of the hepatitis A vaccine for people who use drugs, people who are homeless, and people who work with these populations.** Due to the nature of your work and the community that you help, your assistance is vital to preventing the continuation of this outbreak. The demographic that you are providing for is the most at-risk population for this outbreak. We ask that you spread the word and encourage those who seek care in your facilities to get screened for hepatitis A if they are symptomatic, or to get vaccinated to prevent future illness. The list of local health departments and their contact information is listed in the appendices of this toolkit.

Follow these steps to reduce the chance of hepatitis A transmission and protect yourself, your workers, and your clients:

1. Get vaccinated!

- Hepatitis A vaccine is highly recommended for individuals who work with populations at higher risk for hepatitis A. This includes those who work with people who are homeless, who use drugs, and who were recently incarcerated. Workers and volunteers who provide services to these populations are eligible for one no-cost dose of the hepatitis A vaccine. Contact your local health department to schedule an appointment. Insured individuals may obtain the hepatitis A vaccine at a pharmacy, doctor's office, or other healthcare provider.
- Encourage clients who are homeless or who use drugs to get one dose of the hepatitis A vaccine. They are eligible to receive the vaccine at no cost from their local health department. Healthcare providers may also request vaccine at no cost from BPH to vaccinate populations at high-risk. For more information on requesting vaccine, see the section titled [Requesting State-Funded Vaccine](#).

2. Practice good hand hygiene and encourage others to do the same.

- Use soap and running water, and scrub hands for at least 20 seconds, or as long as it takes to sing "Happy Birthday" twice. Wash hands after using the bathroom or changing a diaper, and before preparing or eating food.
- Resist the temptation to use hand sanitizer or alcohol-based rubs. Hand sanitizer **does not kill** the HAV!
- Post handwashing flyers in bathrooms and kitchens to remind people of the importance of handwashing. Handwashing flyers are included as [appendices](#) to this toolkit.

3. If your facility provides food or meals to the homeless, practice safe food handling techniques.

- Wash hands with soap and water before preparing, serving, or eating food, and after using the bathroom. **Waterless hand sanitizers are not effective against HAV.**
- Wearing disposable gloves while preparing and serving food is highly recommended. Wash hands prior to putting gloves on.
- Workers or volunteers who have cuts or rashes on their hands should cover all open wounds with appropriate bandages and should wear disposable gloves on top. Wearing gloves does not replace proper handwashing.

4. Stay watchful for symptoms of hepatitis A.

- Symptoms include yellowing of the skin or eyes (jaundice), dark-colored urine, clay-colored stools, abdominal pain, fever, fatigue, vomiting, loss of appetite, and nausea.
- Anyone experiencing symptoms should see his or her healthcare provider right away to get tested.

5. Take steps to limit transmission in the event that a worker or client develops hepatitis A.

- Hepatitis A in a food service employee should be immediately reported to the [local health department](#).
- If a food handler develops hepatitis A, this person should be excluded from food service until they are no longer infectious and should provide documentation from a medical provider that he or she is cleared to return to work. Contact your local health department or the Epidemiologist On-Call line at 304-558-5358, extension 1 with any questions about excluding a food handler from work.
- Clean and sanitize frequently touched surfaces using the [Disinfection Guidelines](#) located in this toolkit. The hepatitis A virus can survive for months on surfaces outside the body.
- Clean vomit and feces immediately according to the [Disinfection Guidelines](#) in this toolkit.
- Launder clothing, linens, and other textiles according to the [Disinfection Guidelines](#) in this toolkit.

Hepatitis A Disinfection Guidelines

Hepatitis A is a liver infection caused by the HAV. Highly contagious, the HAV is usually transmitted by the fecal-oral route, either through person-to-person contact or consumption of contaminated food or water. Contamination can occur when infected persons do not wash their hands properly after going to the bathroom and then touch other objects or food items. Surfaces that are frequently touched should be cleaned and sanitized often.

- | | | |
|----------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|
| • Computer Keyboards | • Light Switch Plates | • Remote Controls |
| • Doorknobs | • Phones | • Tables and Chairs |
| • High Chairs | • Railings | • Restroom Surfaces |
| • Kitchen Surfaces | • Recreation Equipment | • Wheelchairs and Walkers |

Effective Disinfectants

Chlorine Bleach

Chlorine bleach is effective at destroying the HAV. Mix and use the chlorine solution promptly according to the measurements below. Allow 1 minute of contact time and then rinse with water.

5000 ppm: 1 and 2/3 cups bleach in 1-gallon water.
Use for stainless steel, food/mouth contact items, tile floors, nonporous surfaces, counters, sinks and toilets.

Other Disinfectants

To determine if a product is effective against hepatitis A, review the product label or product specification sheet and ensure it reads “**effective against hepatitis A**” or “**effective against Feline Calicivirus**.” You may also search the product name in the Environmental Protection Agency’s registered product database at:

[//iaspub.epa.gov/apex/pesticides/f?p=PPLS:1](https://iaspub.epa.gov/apex/pesticides/f?p=PPLS:1)

Steps to Clean Spills of Vomit or Feces

1. Use personal protective equipment (PPE) such as gloves, masks and gowns.
2. Block-off area immediately.
3. Clean up visible debris using disposable absorbent material (paper towels or other type of disposable cloths) and minimize aerosols.
4. Discard soiled items carefully in an impervious plastic bag.
5. Thoroughly clean affected area.
6. Disinfect area and objects surrounding the contamination with an appropriate disinfectant effective against Hepatitis A. **See box to the left, “Effective Disinfectants,” for 5000 ppm sanitizing solution.**
7. Remove gloves, gown and mask, in that order, and discard before exiting contaminated clean-up area.
8. Place discarded PPE in an impervious plastic bag.
9. Re-glove and transport bag to a secure trash container; do not allow the bag to come into contact with clothing.
10. Always wash your hands after handling any contaminated material, trash or waste.

Specific Cleaning Methods

Wear gloves and protect your clothing. Use chemicals in well-ventilated areas and avoid contact between incompatible chemicals.

For hard surfaces, such as countertops and door handles

- Disinfect surfaces with bleach or other approved disinfectant, ensuring the correct contact time is being met. If the surfaces are in a food preparation area, make sure to rinse with water after disinfecting. For surfaces that are corroded or damaged by bleach, use another product that is effective against hepatitis A.

For linens, clothing, and textiles

- Keep contaminated and uncontaminated items separate. Wash in a pre-wash cycle, then use a regular wash cycle with detergent and dry at the highest temperature setting.

Proper Handling of Cleaning Supplies

- Use chemicals in well-ventilated areas.
- Avoid contact between incompatible chemicals.
- Prevent chemical contact with food during cleaning.
- Handle contaminated material as little as possible and with minimal agitation to reduce aerosols.
- Manage waste safely and dispose in a secure trash container.

Preventing the Spread of Illness

- All food workers/volunteers must practice diligent handwashing and good personal hygiene (see below for handwashing procedures).
- Use utensils or gloves to eliminate bare hand contact with ready-to-eat food.
- Thoroughly and continuously disinfect the facility and food areas using the guidelines on this document.

Handwashing

- Food workers shall thoroughly wash their hands and arms with soap and warm water for at least 20 seconds; thoroughly rinse with clean running water; and properly dry hands and arms. **Alcohol-based hand rubs will NOT kill the HAV.**
- Ensure handwashing signs are posted in the appropriate locations.
- Workers shall wash their hands in ALL the following instances:
 - Immediately before engaging in food preparations, including working with non-prepackaged food, cleaning equipment and utensils, and unwrapping single-use food containers and utensils.
 - After touching bare human body parts other than clean hands and exposed portions of arms.
 - After using the toilet room.
 - After caring for or handling any animal allowed in a food facility.
 - After coughing, sneezing, using a handkerchief or disposable tissue, using tobacco, eating or drinking.
 - After handling soiled equipment or utensils.
 - Before putting on disposable gloves to start working with food.
 - During food preparation, as often as necessary to remove dirt and contamination, and when changing tasks to prevent cross-contamination.
 - When switching between working with raw food and working with ready-to-eat food.
 - Before dispensing or serving food or handling clean tableware and serving utensils in the food service area.
 - After engaging in other activities that contaminate hands.

Worker/Volunteer Health Guidelines

All food workers/volunteers must be knowledgeable of the relationship between personal health, hygiene and food safety. Information on this topic can be found in the 2005 FDA Food Code Chapter 2, Part 2, incorporated by reference in WV §64 CSR 17 Food Establishments.

The Employees are Responsible for Notifying the Person in Charge.

- Notify the person in charge if you have been diagnosed with HAV. Be advised that employees are also required to report the following: Salmonella Typhi, Shigella, Shiga-toxin producing Escherichia coli, Norovirus and/or the following acute gastrointestinal symptoms: diarrhea, fever, vomiting, jaundice, or sore throat with fever. History of exposure to foodborne illness, such as living in the same household with an individual diagnosed with hepatitis A, must also be reported to the person in charge.
- Remember, you should not work if you are sick with acute gastrointestinal illness. **Acute gastrointestinal illness is diarrhea, either alone or with vomiting, fever or abdominal cramps.**

The Person in Charge is Responsible for Meeting the Following Requirements:

- **EXCLUDE** a food worker/volunteer from the food facility if diagnosed with HAV, Salmonella Typhi, Shigella, Shiga toxin-producing Escherichia coli, Norovirus and/or experience the following symptoms: diarrhea, fever, vomiting, or jaundice.
- **RESTRICT** a food worker/volunteer from working with exposed food, clean equipment, clean linens, clean utensils and unwrapped single-service articles if experiencing:
 - Positive stool specimen if they do not report acute gastrointestinal symptoms.
 - Report suffering from a sore throat with fever.
 - Report an open lesion containing pus.

Food establishments serving a highly susceptible population have more stringent exclusion and restriction requirements. Your local health department can provide guidance on exclusion and restriction requirements and clearing ill workers/volunteers for work.

For more information on hepatitis A or to report individuals with vomiting, diarrhea or fever associated with food consumption, contact your [local health department](#).

Adapted from the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services.

Appendix 1: Vaccine Request Resources

Hepatitis A Vaccine Requisition Form

Applicant Information

Health Dept./Agency: _____ Date: _____

Contact Name: _____

Last

First

County: _____

Contact Number: _____

Shipping Address: _____

Street, City, State, Zip code

Vaccine Purpose (check all that apply):

☐ To vaccinate contact(s) of case(s) of statewide hepatitis A outbreak

☐ To vaccinate high-risk* individuals

☐ Planned vaccination clinic: (Date/Location): _____

☐ Other (please describe): _____

Additional Comments:

Signature

Date

**Homeless, transient, unstable home; Incarcerated in the last 6 weeks; Current illicit drug user; Persons in close contact with high risk individuals.*

Vaccine Request Information

Current inventory of State-funded vaccine: _____ Date: _____

Number of doses requested: _____ Date needed by: _____

FAX completed form to the Division of Infectious Disease Epidemiology (DIDE) at 304-558-8736.

For additional questions about Hepatitis A, please contact the Epidemiologist On-Call at 304-558-5358.

State Use Only

Reviewed by: _____

Vaccine Request: ☐ Approved Number of doses: _____ ☐ Declined

Date Vaccine Shipped: _____ Shipping Confirmation: _____

Updated July 2018

Instructions for using the Hepatitis A Screening Tool

1. The screening tool should be administered to each patient visiting your facility.
2. Upon arrival, the receptionist will give the patient a copy of the Hepatitis A screening tool.
3. The patient will complete the screening tool.
4. The patient will return the screening tool to the receptionist.
5. The receptionist will give the screening tool to the nurse for review.
6. The nurse will review the screening tool to identify if the patient indicates he/she falls into one of the following risk factors:
 - Persons who use injection or non-injection illicit drugs
 - Men who have sex with men (MSM)
 - Persons who are homeless or in transient living situations
 - Persons who have been incarcerated
 - Persons with acute or chronic liver disease, including those with hepatitis B virus (HBV) and/or hepatitis C virus (HCV)
 - Persons exposed or in contact with someone with HAV
 - Household contact with someone who uses illicit drugs or is homeless
 - Persons who provide direct services with people who are homeless or use illicit drugs
 - Persons with ongoing exposure to a group listed above
7. If the patient indicates he/she has at least one of the risk factors, are age 19 and older, and are uninsured or underinsured, the nurse should offer the hepatitis A vaccine. ***It is not necessary for the patient to specifically indicate which risk factor applies to them.***

Screening Tool for Hepatitis A Vaccine

Please consider the following risk factors. It is not necessary to specifically indicate which risk factor applies to you, however, please acknowledge whether or not you fall into at least one of the below risk factors.

- Persons who use injection or non-injection illicit drugs
- Men who have sex with men (MSM)
- Persons who are homeless or in transient living situations
- Persons who have been incarcerated
- Persons with acute or chronic liver disease, including those with hepatitis B virus (HBV) and/or hepatitis C virus (HCV)
- Persons exposed or in contact with someone with Hepatitis A (HAV)
- Household contact with someone who uses illicit drugs or is homeless
- Persons who provide direct services with people who are homeless or use illicit drugs
- Persons with ongoing exposure to a group listed above

_____ Yes, I fall into at least one of the risk factors.

_____ No, I do not fall into at least one of the above risk factors.

Patient/Parent/Legal Guardian Signature

Date

Healthcare Professional Signature

Date



Facility Name:	
Point of Contact:	
Phone Number:	
Log Date Range:	

Fax completed form to the Division of Infectious Disease Epidemiology at 304-558-8736 monthly to the Attn: Shannon McBee. For additional questions about Hepatitis A, please contact the Epidemiologist On-Call at 304-558-5358 extension 1.

[illegible]

Appendix 2: Frequently Asked Questions and Contact Information

Hepatitis A: Frequently Asked Questions

West Virginia is experiencing a hepatitis A outbreak. Several cases have been molecularly linked to the multi-state outbreak in which genotype 1B is the hepatitis A strain of concern; other cases have been epidemiologically linked to cases from Kentucky.

What is hepatitis A?

Hepatitis A is a highly contagious liver infection caused by the HAV. It can range from a mild illness lasting a few weeks to a severe illness lasting several months. Although rare, hepatitis A can cause death.

How is hepatitis A spread?

Hepatitis A usually spreads when a person unknowingly ingests the virus from objects, food, or drinks contaminated by small, undetected amounts of stool from an infected person. Hepatitis A can also spread from close personal contact with an infected person such as through sexual contact or caring for someone who is ill.

Who is at risk for hepatitis A?

Although anyone can get hepatitis A, certain groups of people are at higher risk such as:

- Persons who use injection and non-injection drug users
- Homeless persons
- Persons who had sexual contact with someone who has hepatitis A
- Men who have sexual encounters with other men
- People who have come into close person-to-person contact with an infected person
- People with ongoing, close contact with people who have the above risk factors

What are the symptoms of hepatitis A?

- | | | |
|--------------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------|
| • Yellowing of the skin or eyes (jaundice) | • Loss of appetite | • Nausea |
| • Dark urine | • Vomiting | • Joint pain |
| • Clay-colored stools | • Fever | |
| | • Fatigue | |

What should I do if I think I have been exposed to hepatitis A?

If you think you were exposed to hepatitis A, call or visit a health professional right away since hepatitis A can be easily spread 1 to 2 weeks before symptoms show.

Can hepatitis A be prevented?

Yes. The best way to prevent hepatitis A is with the hepatitis A vaccine. Practicing good hand hygiene – including thoroughly washing hands after using the bathroom, changing diapers, and before preparing or eating food – plays an important role in preventing the spread of hepatitis A.

I work with a high-risk population for hepatitis A and want to obtain vaccine for a vaccination clinic. Who should I contact?

Please contact your local health department to determine if an appointment at a vaccination clinic can be arranged. To find your local health department, use the following link: dhhr.wv.gov/localhealth/Pages/Map.aspx.

Who should be vaccinated against hepatitis A?

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommends that the following persons be vaccinated against hepatitis A:

- All children at age one year
- Persons who are at increased risk for infection
- Persons who are at increased risk for complications from hepatitis A
- Any person wishing to obtain immunity (protection)

Where can I go to get vaccinated against hepatitis A?

If you have insurance, you can see your healthcare provider or many local pharmacies (e.g. Rite Aid, CVS, Walmart, etc.) carry the vaccine. Local health departments have a limited supply of vaccine for uninsured individuals and those at highest risk for hepatitis A infection. Contact your local health department with questions:

dhhr.wv.gov/localhealth/Pages/Map.aspx.

Where can I find more information on hepatitis A?

The CDC website contains information about hepatitis A. CDC also has a webpage specific to the multistate outbreak of hepatitis A.

- www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/hav/index.htm (General hepatitis A)
- www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/outbreaks/2017March-HepatitisA.htm (Multistate outbreak of hepatitis A)

DIDE maintains a webpage with up-to-date information on cases in West Virginia.

- hepawarewv.org/

Berkeley County

Berkeley-Morgan Health Dept.
122 Waverly Ct.
Martinsburg, WV 25403
303-263-5131
M-F 8:30am-4:30pm

Boone County

Boone County Health Dept.
213 Kenmore Dr.
Danville, WV 25053
304-369-7970
M-F 8:00am-4:00pm

Braxton County

Braxton County Health Dept.
617 Old Turnpike Rd.
Sutton, WV 26601
304-765-2851
M-F 8:00am-4:00pm

Cabell County

Cabell-Huntington Health Dept.
703 Seventh Ave.
Huntington, WV 25701
304-523-6483
M 8:00am-6:00pm
T-F 8:00am-4:00pm

Calhoun County

Mid-Ohio Valley Health Dept.
211 6th Street
Parkersburg, WV 26101
304-485-7374
M-F 8:00am-4:00pm

Clay County

Clay County Health Dept.
452 Main Street
Clay, WV 25043
304-587-4629
M-F 8:00am-4:00pm

Fayette County

Fayette County Health Dept.
202 Church Street
Fayetteville, WV 25840
304-574-1617
M-F 8:00am-4:00pm
(additional times upon request)

Gilmer County

Gilmer County Health Dept.
809 Medical Dr., Suite #3
Glenville, WV 26351
304-462-7351
M-F 8:00am-4:00pm

Greenbrier County

Greenbrier County Health Dept.
9109 Seneca Trail South
Ronceverte, WV 24970
304-654-1787
M-F 8:00am-4:00pm

Hancock County

Hancock County Health Dept.
100 North Court St.
New Cumberland, WV 26047
304-564-3343
M-F 8:00am-4:00pm (by appt.)

Harrison County

Harrison-Clarksburg Health Dept.
330 West Main St.
Clarksburg, WV 26301
304-623-9308
M-F 8:00am-4:00pm
(after hour appt if scheduled)

Jackson County

Jackson County Health Dept.
504 S Church Street
Ripley, WV 25271
304-372-2634
M-F 8:00am-4:00pm

Kanawha County

Kanawha-Charleston Health Dept.
108 Lee Street, East
Charleston, WV 25301
304-348-6494
M-F 8:00am-4:00pm

Lincoln County

Lincoln County Health Dept.
8008 Court Ave.
Hamlin, WV 25523
304-824-3330
M-F 8:00am-4:00pm

Logan County

Logan County Health Department
300 Stratton St., Room 203
Logan WV 25601
304-792-8630
M-F 8:00am-4:00pm

Marion County

Marion County Health Dept.
300 Second Street
Fairmont, WV 26554
304-366-3360
M-F 8:00am-4:00pm

Marshall County

Marshall County Health Dept.
513 6th Street
Moundsville, WV 26041
304-845-7840
M-F 8:30am-4:30pm

Mason County

Mason County Health Dept.
216 5th Street
Point Pleasant, WV 25550
304-675-3050
M-F 8:00am-4:00pm

McDowell County

McDowell County Health Dept.
7292 Black Diamond Hwy.
Wilcoe, WV 24895
304-448-2174
M-F 8:00am-4:00pm

Mercer County

Mercer County Health Dept.
978 Blue Prince Rd.
Bluefield, WV 24701
304-324-8367
M-F 8:00am-4:00pm

Mingo County

Mingo County Health Dept.
101 Logan St., Suite 201
Williamson, WV 25661
304-235-3570
M-F 8:00am-4:00pm

Monongalia County

Monongalia County Health Dept.
 453 Van Voorhis Rd.
 Morgantown, WV 26505
 304-598-5100
 M-F 8:30am-4:30pm

Monroe County

Monroe County Health Dept.
 200 Health Center Dr.
 Union, WV 24983
 304-772-3064
 MWF 8am-4:30pm, T/TR 8am-6pm

Morgan County

Berkeley-Morgan Health Dept.
 122 Waverly Ct.
 Martinsburg, WV 25403
 303-263-5131
 M-F 8:30am-4:30pm

Nicholas County

Nicholas County Health Dept.
 1 Stevens Rd., Suite 201
 Summersville, WV 26651
 304-872-5329
 M-F 8:30am-4:30pm

Pleasants County

Mid-Ohio Valley Health Dept.
 211 6th Street
 Parkersburg, WV 26101
 304-485-7374
 M-F 8:00am-4:00pm

Putnam County

Putnam County Health Dept.
 11878 Winfield Rd.
 Winfield, WV 25213
 304-757-2541
 M-F 8:00am-4:00pm

Raleigh County

Beckley-Raleigh Health Dept.
 1602 Harper Rd.
 Beckley, WV 25801
 304-252-8531
 M-F 7:00am-5:00pm

Randolph County

Randolph-Elkins Health Dept.
 32 Randolph Ave, Suite 101
 Elkins, WV 26201
 304-636-0396
 M 8:00am-4:30pm,
 T-Th 7:30am-4:30pm
 F 8:00am-4:00pm

Ritchie County

Mid-Ohio Valley Health Dept.
 211 6th Street
 Parkersburg, WV 26101
 304-485-7374
 M-F 8:00am-4:00pm

Roane County

Mid-Ohio Valley Health Dept.
 211 6th Street
 Parkersburg, WV 26101
 304-485-7374
 M-F 8:00am-4:00pm

Upshur County

Upshur-Buckhannon Health Dept.
 15 North Locust St.
 Buckhannon, WV 26201
 304-472-2810
 M-F 8:30am-4:30pm
 W 8:00am-8:30pm

Wayne County

Wayne County Health Dept.
 217 Kenova Ave
 Wayne, WV 25570
 304-272-6761
 M-F 8:00am-4:00pm

Webster County

Webster County Health Dept.
 112 Bell St., Suite C
 Webster Springs, WV 26288
 304-847-5483
 M-F 8:00am-4:00pm

Wood County

Mid-Ohio Valley Health Dept.
 211 6th Street
 Parkersburg, WV 26101
 304-485-7374
 M-F 8:00am-4:00pm

Wirt County

Mid-Ohio Valley Health Dept.
 211 6th Street
 Parkersburg, WV 26101
 304-485-7374
 M-F 8:00am-4:00pm

Wyoming County

4 Cedar Ave.
 Pineville, WV 24874
 304-732-7941
 M-F 8:00am-4:00pm

Environmental Health/Sanitation**Questions:**

Contact your local health department

Infectious Disease and Vaccine**Questions:**

304-558-5358, ext. 1

**Other Information on Hepatitis A
and the Current Outbreak:**

hepawarewv.org

Appendix 3: Educational Materials, Flyers, and Handouts

Health Department Name

HEPATITIS A VACCINE CLINIC

Date (Ex: October 12, 2018)

Clinic Time

Name of Clinic Location

Clinic Street Address

City, State, ZIP

Contact Phone Number

Vaccination is the best way to prevent
hepatitis A infection.

You may be able to receive the hepatitis A vaccine at no cost.

Those who may be more likely to get hepatitis A can receive the vaccine
for free. This includes people who:

- ✓ Are homeless or have unstable housing
- ✓ Were recently in jail or prison (within the last 6 weeks)
- ✓ Currently use drugs (injection or non-injection)
- ✓ Are in close contact with individuals who meet any of the above
criteria

You do not have to tell clinic staff which of these criteria
apply to you.

WHAT IS HEPATITIS A?

Hepatitis A is a viral illness that attacks the liver. It is spread when a person ingests food or drinks, or touches surfaces contaminated with microscopic amounts of feces, from a person infected with hepatitis A.

WHAT ARE SYMPTOMS OF HEPATITIS A INFECTION?

- Yellow skin or eyes
- Abdominal pain
- Dark urine
- Feeling tired
- Fever
- Gray-colored stools
- Joint pain
- Loss of appetite
- Nausea
- Vomiting

HOW CAN I PROTECT MYSELF AGAINST HEPATITIS A INFECTION?

- Get your hepatitis A shot. This is the best way to protect against infection.
- Wash your hands with soap and water before preparing food, eating, and after using the bathroom or changing a diaper. Hand sanitizer **does not kill** the hepatitis A virus!

Hepatitis A and Homelessness



Hepatitis A

What is hepatitis A?

Hepatitis A is a liver infection that can spread from person to person, but can be prevented.

Have these symptoms?
See your medical provider immediately!

- Fever
- Feeling Tired
- Nausea
- Loss of Appetite
- Jaundice (yellowing of skin or eyes)
- Stomach Pain
- Vomiting
- Dark urine, gray colored stool or diarrhea

What are the symptoms?

You may be at risk if you:

- **Are homeless or have unstable housing**
- Use injection or non-injection drugs
- **Those who regularly serve the homeless**
- Were recently in jail
- Have liver disease such as Hepatitis B or C
- Hang out with someone with hepatitis A
- Have regular contact with someone who uses drugs or is homeless

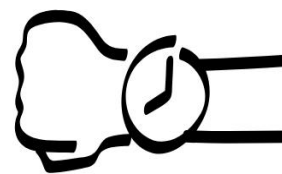
Prevention:

- Hand washing - 20 seconds with soap and water. Hand sanitizer does not kill Hepatitis A
- **Get Vaccinated**

Get a **FREE** vaccine at your local health dept!



Protect yourself against hepatitis A!



Wash Hands Properly



Wash hands for 20 seconds with soap and water. **Alcohol-based rubs do not kill hepatitis A.**

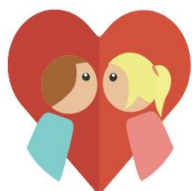


Do NOT Share Needles

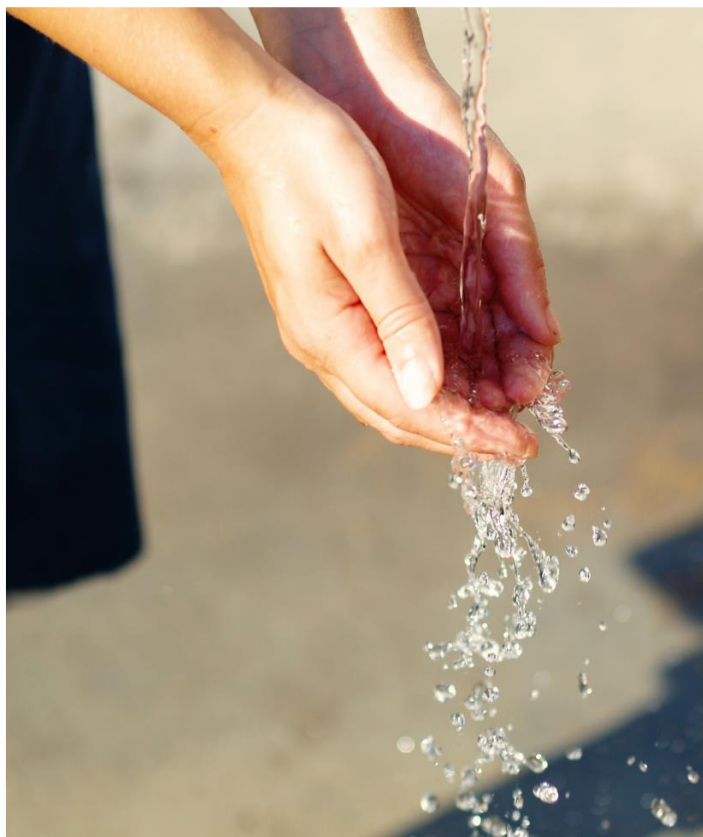


Get Vaccinated

Go to your local health department to get a **FREE vaccine.**



Practice Safe Sex



Do you work frequently and closely with the homeless?

☒ **YES?**



You are eligible for a **FREE** hepatitis A vaccine from your local health department or from any provider that has state-funded vaccine.



Prevention of Hepatitis A

In Health Care
Settings



What is Hepatitis A?

Hepatitis A is a viral illness that attacks the liver. It is spread when a person ingests food or water, or touches surfaces contaminated with microscopic amounts of feces from a person infected with hepatitis A virus (HAV).



Am I at Risk?

As a health care worker, you are not at increased risk for hepatitis A as long as you adhere to proper infection control practices. These practices are the same for hepatitis A as they are for many other infectious conditions.



What You Can Do

Hand Hygiene



Frequent hand washing with soap and water is the first line of defense against the spread of hepatitis A infection.

Remember to wash your hands before touching a patient, after touching a patient and/or touching their environment, and before and after performing any procedures.

Alcohol-based hand rubs will **not** kill the hepatitis A virus.

Standard Precautions



Adhering to standard precautions for all patient care will reduce the risk of transmission for HAV and many other infectious diseases.

Remember to wash your hands thoroughly before and after patient interaction.

Don the appropriate personal protective equipment. For HAV, this will include gloves; gown and face shield should be worn if contact with body fluids is anticipated.

Proper Cleaning



Preventing the spread of HAV infection requires cleaning the right surfaces with the right product.

Clean all high-touch surfaces, such as doorknobs, bed rails, sinks, and toilets to remove any soil.

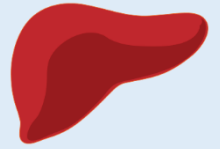
Disinfect these areas with a product effective against HAV.

Most products that are effective against norovirus will kill HAV.

Check the EPA List G for further guidance.

Protect yourself against Hepatitis A

Hepatitis A is a viral illness that attacks the liver. It is spread when a person ingests food or drinks, or touches surfaces contaminated with microscopic amounts of feces, from a person infected with hepatitis A.



Anyone can get hepatitis A, but some people are at higher risk. This includes:

- People who are homeless or have unstable housing
- People who use illicit drugs, either injection or non-injection
- People who were recently in prison or jail
- People who live or work with people who are homeless, use drugs, or were recently in prison or jail

Hepatitis A is different from hepatitis B or C. Only the hepatitis A vaccination will offer protection against hepatitis A infection. Hepatitis A infections are short-term and typically last a few weeks to a few months. Unlike hepatitis B or C, hepatitis A does not develop into a long-lasting condition, and you cannot get hepatitis A more than once. Once you recover from hepatitis A infection, you are protected from getting it again.

Protect yourself and your loved ones by doing the following:



Get one dose of the hepatitis A vaccine. It's the easiest way to prevent infection.



Wash hands with soap and water before eating and after using the bathroom.

HEPATITIS A & COMMUNITIES AT RISK

What is hepatitis?

“Hepatitis” means inflammation or swelling of the liver. The liver is an organ in the human body that aids the body in fighting germs, cleaning blood, and digesting food.

There are five types of viral Hepatitis—Hepatitis A, B, C, D, E. This fact sheet focuses on Hepatitis A virus.

What is Hepatitis A?

A highly contagious liver infection caused by the Hepatitis A virus (HAV).

Nationwide Hepatitis A Outbreak

12

Since 2017, 12 states declared a Hepatitis A outbreak—Arkansas, California, Indiana, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Michigan, Missouri, North Carolina, Ohio, Tennessee, Utah, and West Virginia.



Since January 2018, West Virginia has seen an increase in Hepatitis A cases.

How is Hepatitis A diagnosed?

A physician can determine if a person has Hepatitis A by discussing his/her symptoms and taking a blood sample.

What are the symptoms?

Fever ▪ Fatigue ▪ Loss of Appetite ▪ Nausea ▪ Vomiting ▪ Abdominal pain ▪ Gray-colored bowel movements ▪ Joint Pain ▪ Jaundice ▪ Dark Urine

Who is at risk in the community?



Persons who use drugs, whether injected or not



Person who had sexual contact with someone who has Hepatitis A



Men who have sexual encounters with other men



People who have come into close person-to-person contact with an infected person



How is Hepatitis A spread?

Hepatitis A is usually spread when a person ingests fecal matter, including microscopic amounts.

- Infected person **does not** wash his/her hands properly after going to the bathroom and then touches objects or food
- Someone engages in **sexual activities** with an infected person

How do I prevent Hepatitis A from spreading?



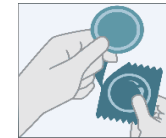
WASH HANDS PROPERLY!



DO NOT SHARE NEEDLES!



GET VACCINATED!



PRACTICE SAFE SEX!

For more information

Call your local health department or visit:

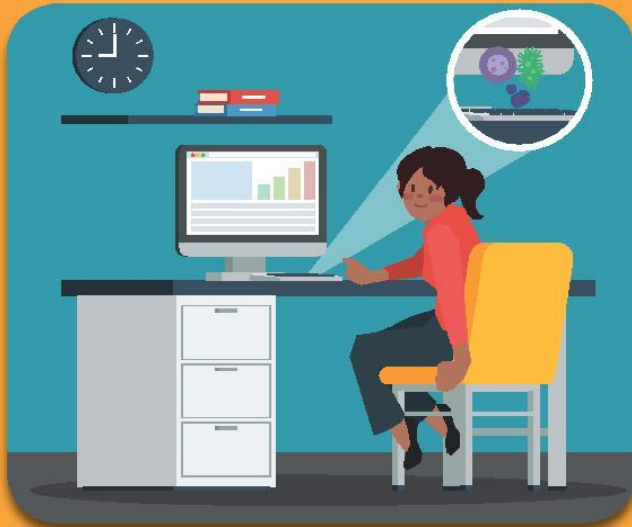
www.hepawarewv.org or
www.cdc.gov/hepatitis

Reference: Center for Disease Control and Prevention

November 2018

Germs are everywhere!

You can pick up germs from things you do every day.



Wash your hands so you don't get sick.

Accessible version: www.cdc.gov/handwashing



U.S. Department of
Health and Human Services
Centers for Disease
Control and Prevention



1,000,000,000,000
germs can live in
one gram of poop

(That's the weight of a paper clip!)

WASH YOUR HANDS

after using the toilet

CS243017



**U.S. Department of
Health and Human Services**
Centers for Disease
Control and Prevention