

HEPATITIS A OUTBREAKS

Outbreaks of hepatitis A are occurring nationwide. Hospitalizations and deaths have been higher than usual, especially among older people and those with comorbid conditions. People at higher risk for infection include people who use drugs and those experiencing homelessness. These populations may be more likely to seek care in emergency departments than in primary care settings. Please screen for these risk factors and administer hepatitis A vaccine.

What Emergency Departments Can Do



FOLLOW appropriate infection control practices, including proper hand hygiene



ADVISE post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) for close contacts of infected people within 2 weeks of exposure



REPORT all confirmed or suspected hepatitis A cases to your health department in a timely manner



VACCINATE patients at risk

- Serologic testing is NOT required or recommended in order to vaccinate
- A single dose of hepatitis A vaccine is about 95% seroprotective in healthy individuals

Assess and Vaccinate Patients at Risk

- People who use drugs (injection or non-injection)
- People experiencing homelessness or transient living
- People who are, or were recently incarcerated
- Men who have sex with men
- People with underlying liver disease (cirrhosis, hepatitis B, or hepatitis C)

www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/HepAOutbreak



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