

Hepatitis A Southeast Michigan Outbreak

Currently Southeastern Michigan is experiencing a very significant outbreak of Hepatitis A infection. Since August 2016 there have been more than 450 diagnosed cases. We are not in the affected area at this time.

Please go to: www.mi.gov/hepatitisAoutbreak for the latest information on the affected areas.

Hepatitis A Overview

Hepatitis A is a serious, highly contagious liver disease caused by the hepatitis A virus (HAV). HAV is found in the feces (poop) of people with hepatitis A. You can get hepatitis A by eating contaminated food or water, during sex, or just by living with an infected person. Illness can appear 15-50 days after exposure and you can be sick for several weeks. In some cases, people can die. Although not all people infected with hepatitis A experience illness, symptoms can include:

- nausea and vomiting
- belly pain
- feeling tired
- fever
- loss of appetite
- yellowing of the skin and eyes
- dark urine
- pale-colored feces (poop)
- joint pain



There are steps you can take to reduce the risk of Hepatitis A transmission. Hepatitis A is a vaccine-preventable illness. While the hepatitis A vaccine is recommended as a part of the routine childhood vaccination schedule, most adults have not been vaccinated and may be susceptible to the hepatitis A virus. The best way to reduce the risk of getting hepatitis A is to get vaccinated with two doses of Hepatitis A vaccine. It is also recommended to wash your hands after going to the bathroom and before preparing meals for yourself and others. Use your own towels, toothbrushes, and eating utensils. Do not have sex with someone who has HAV infection or share food, drinks, or smokes with other people.

What can the public do to protect themselves and their communities?

- Get vaccinated against hepatitis A
- Wash hands after using the restroom and before eating or preparing meals for yourself or others
- Use your own towels, toothbrushes, and eating utensils
- Do not have sex with someone who has HAV infection
- Do not share food, drinks, drugs, or smokes with other people
- If you think you may have hepatitis A, see your medical provider
- If you have hepatitis A, please cooperate with your local public health to help protect others



Vaccination Information

Hepatitis A can be prevented with a safe and effective vaccine. Stop the spread of this infection.

Prioritization for People Wishing to be Immunized



MDHHS supports vaccinating anyone who wishes to be protected from Hepatitis A. You may contact your primary care provider, pharmacy or local health department to discuss getting vaccinated.

There are specific high-risk groups that are routinely recommended to receive the Hepatitis A vaccine, these include:

- Persons who use injection and non-injection illegal drugs.
- Persons who have sexual activities with someone who has HAV.
- Men who have sex with men.
- Travelers to countries where Hepatitis A is common.
- Persons with chronic liver disease, such as cirrhosis, hepatitis B, or hepatitis C.
- Persons with clotting factor disorders.
- Persons who work with Hepatitis A-infected animals or in Hepatitis A research laboratory.
- Persons who expect to have close personal contact with an international adoptee from a country where Hepatitis A is common.

State and Local health officials are recommending food industry workers within the current (Southeast Michigan) outbreak area get vaccinated against Hepatitis A.

Again, vaccine is available through most healthcare providers or pharmacies. If you have any questions you may contact the **Van Buren Cass District Health Department at 269.740.4155.**