



Health Alert



December 7, 2018

Increase in Hepatitis A Activity in East-Central Illinois

SUMMARY AND ACTION ITEMS

- Amid surrounding ongoing Hepatitis A (HAV) outbreaks in multiple states, Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) has started to receive reports of increased activity in East-Central Illinois; the likelihood of travel to Chicago is high, which may lead to subsequent transmission within Chicago.
- Healthcare providers should ensure adequate supply of hepatitis A vaccine and establish systems to vaccinate all adults at high risk of HAV infection, especially persons experiencing homelessness, men who have sex with men (MSM) and/or persons who use injection and non-injection drugs.

Background: Hepatitis A (HAV) outbreaks among persons reporting drug use or homelessness continue in Kentucky, West Virginia, Indiana, Missouri, Ohio, Tennessee and Arkansas and, as of November 3, 2018, over 8,500 outbreak associated cases have been reported from 12 states. Statewide, Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) has not identified an overall increase in the number of acute HAV cases in 2018 compared to 2017. However, most recently, IDPH has identified an increase of cases among men who have sex with men (MSM) in East-Central Illinois. Chicago Department of Public Health (CDPH) has confirmed 58 HAV cases from January 2017 to present. Only 2 of the 24 cases reported in 2018 were MSM, though unrelated to the current cluster in East-Central Illinois.

Recently, the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) voted unanimously to [add "homelessness" as a routine indication for HAV vaccination](#). We recommend all providers screen their patients and provide HAV vaccine when indicated. While two doses are recommended to complete the series, even one dose provides nearly 95% immunity. This recommendation adds to the existing [routine vaccination guidance for drug use and MSM](#).

Vaccine availability: CDPH continues to partner with Howard Brown Health Center to make hepatitis A vaccine available to high-risk individuals who are uninsured or unable to pay. If you cannot provide hepatitis A vaccine or do not currently have stock of hepatitis A vaccine, please refer individuals to any of the following [Howard Brown locations](#). Patients can call to make an appointment at a specific location or present during hours of operation without an appointment and request vaccination.

Howard Brown Health Clark 6500 N. Clark St. Chicago, IL 60626 773.388.1600	Howard Brown Health 63rd St. 641 W. 63rd St. Chicago, IL 60621 773.388.1600
Howard Brown Health Sheridan 4025 N. Sheridan Road Chicago, IL 60613 773.388.1600	Howard Brown Health at TPAN 5537 North Broadway Chicago, IL 60640 773.388.1600
Howard Brown Health Halsted 3245 N. Halsted Street Chicago, IL 60657 773.388.1600	Howard Brown Health Diversey 2800 N Sheridan, Suite 211 Chicago, IL 60657 773.472.7412
Howard Brown Health 55th St. 1525 East 55th Street Chicago, IL 60615 773.388.1600	Howard Brown Health at Thresholds South 734 W 47th Street Chicago, IL 60609 773.388.1600
Broadway Youth Center (ages 12-24 years only) 4009 N. Broadway Chicago, IL 60613 773.935.3151 Walk-in available: Mon/Tues/Thurs/Fri: Noon-7pm	For additional questions about the hepatitis A vaccination program at Howard Brown Health Center, please contact Kristin Keglovitz at 773-572-8357 or kristink@howardbrown.org .

To report confirmed cases of hepatitis A, please call the provider reporting hotline: 312-743-9000 or 311 on evenings or weekends. For Hepatitis A provider resources, including **Information for Vaccinators**, visit www.chicagoan.org/hepa. Download patient educational resources at www.cityofchicago.org/HepatitisA.