



# Health Alert



Rahm Emanuel, Mayor

Chicago Health Alert Network

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## Notice to vaccinate high risk adults with Hepatitis A vaccine amid ongoing national Hepatitis A outbreaks

### Summary and Action Items:

- **Ongoing** hepatitis A outbreaks are occurring in Michigan, Utah, San Diego, Santa Cruz, and Los Angeles Counties.
- **Prevent** hepatitis A infection by vaccinating high risk groups now.
- **Report all cases of hepatitis A to the Chicago Department of Public Health.** Contact Communicable Disease Hepatitis Surveillance at (phone) 312-746-6197, (fax) 312-746-6388.

**Background:** Recent outbreaks of hepatitis A virus (HAV) across the country have raised awareness of this serious and highly contagious illness. In close proximity to Chicago, Southeastern Michigan has been experiencing a HAV outbreak since August 2016 which has accelerated since August 2017 with a total of 431 cases, 348 hospitalizations (85.7% of cases) and 17 deaths (data as of October 18, 2017). The largest HAV outbreak since the introduction of vaccine has been ongoing in San Diego County since March 2017, with a total of 507 cases, 351 hospitalizations (69% of cases) and 19 deaths (data as of October 17, 2017).

**Symptoms:** Symptoms of HAV include a viral prodrome of fatigue, malaise, fever, muscle aches, followed by nausea, vomiting, diarrhea (more common in children), abdominal pain and hepatitis (elevated serum aminotransferase levels) which can be associated with darkening of urine, pale-colored stools, and yellowing of the skin (jaundice) and/or eyes (scleral icterus). The most common symptom in adults is jaundice (>70%). Transmission occurs by fecal-oral route. Liver failure and death are more likely to occur in persons over the age of 50 years and those with chronic liver disease.

**Prevention:** In order to protect Chicago's highest risk individuals, Chicago Department of Public Health is asking all adult healthcare providers to vaccinate the following high risk groups with any hepatitis A vaccine currently in stock.

- Homelessness or transient housing
- Men who have sex with men
- Users of injection and non-injection drugs
- History of incarceration
- Persons with chronic liver disease
- Travelers\*
- Persons with clotting-factor disorders
- Persons who work with non-human primates
- Persons who anticipate close personal contact with an international adoptee

\* Persons aged 1 year and older traveling to areas at high or intermediate risk of HAV infection (all areas of the world except Canada, Western Europe and Scandinavia, Japan, New Zealand, Australia).

### Adult Dosing of Hepatitis A Vaccine

	Age	Dose	Volume (mL)	Number of doses	Schedule (months)
Vaqta® (Merck)	≥19 years	50 Units	1.0	2	0, 6-18
Havrix® (GSK)	≥19 years	1,440 EL.U*	1.0	2	0, 6-12
Twinrix® (GSK) † combined hepatitis A and B vaccine	≥18 years	720 EL.U* and 20mcg of HBsAg	1.0	3	0, 1, 6 (alternate schedules available)

\* Enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) units, † Not to be used as post-exposure prophylaxis

### Contact:

- For additional information or questions, please contact Immunization Program Medical Director Marielle Fricchione, MD at 312-746-5382 or [marielle.fricchione@cityofchicago.org](mailto:marielle.fricchione@cityofchicago.org).
- If you have any hepatitis A vaccine expiring soon that you do not plan to use, please contact [ChicagoVFC@cityofchicago.org](mailto:ChicagoVFC@cityofchicago.org).
- To report cases of hepatitis A, please contact Communicable Disease Hepatitis Surveillance at (phone) 312-746-6197, (fax) 312-746-6388.

**Resources:**

CDC. Prevention of Hepatitis A through active or passive immunization: recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP). MMWR 2006;55(No. RR-7):1-23. <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr5507a1.htm>.

Hepatitis A Outbreak Information:

- San Diego County [http://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/hhsa/programs/phs/community\\_epidemiology/dc/Hepatitis\\_A/outbreak.html](http://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/hhsa/programs/phs/community_epidemiology/dc/Hepatitis_A/outbreak.html)
- Southeastern Michigan [www.michigan.gov/hepatitisaoutbreak](http://www.michigan.gov/hepatitisaoutbreak)

Standing orders for administering Hepatitis A Vaccine to Adults: <http://www.immunize.org/catg.d/p3077.pdf>

Hepatitis A vaccination - information for health care providers: <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vpd/hepa/hcp/index.html>

Hepatitis A Vaccine Information Statement (VIS): <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/vis/vis-statements/hep-a.pdf>

Manufacturer's Vaccine Assistance Programs: The following is provided for adult clients who need help paying for vaccines, is for informational purposes only and is not an endorsement of any certain vaccine brand/manufacturer.

- Merck Vaccine Patient Assistance Program for uninsured adults 19 years and older. Call 1-800-293-3881 from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. EST, Mon. through Fri. or visit: [https://www.pparx.org/prescription\\_assistance\\_programs/merck\\_vaccine\\_patient\\_assistance\\_program](https://www.pparx.org/prescription_assistance_programs/merck_vaccine_patient_assistance_program).
- GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) Vaccines Access Program which provides adult GSK vaccines to eligible low income patients who do not have third party coverage for vaccines. Call 1-877-VAC-2911 (1-877-822-2911) or visit: <https://www.gskforyou.com/vaccines-patient-assistance/>.