



Health Alert



Rahm Emanuel, Mayor

Chicago Health Alert Network

Julie Y Morita, MD Commissioner

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Increase in Hepatitis A among Men Who Have Sex with Men (MSM)

SUMMARY AND ACTION ITEMS

- An increased number of cases of hepatitis A occurred among men who have sex with men (MSM) in Chicago in 2017 compared to previous years.
- This increase is occurring in the context of continued surveillance for hepatitis A in Chicago among persons who are homeless and/or use illicit (injection and non-injection) drugs.
- All MSM should be offered hepatitis A vaccine, which is the best method for preventing hepatitis A infection.

Background: In 2017, 33 total cases of hepatitis A (HAV) were confirmed. Fifteen HAV cases were confirmed among MSM (58% of male cases) compared to 1 per year in 2015 and 2016. Twelve cases occurred among MSM who were neither homeless nor actively using drugs. So far in 2018, one additional MSM case has been confirmed and 2 investigations are pending. This increase has occurred in the setting of several large hepatitis A outbreaks across the U.S. in individuals who are homeless, illicit drug-users and MSM. HAV outbreaks specifically in MSM have been identified in New York City, LA county and Colorado. MSM are recognized to be at higher risk for infection with HAV. The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) has recommended [routine immunization of MSM](#) with 2 doses of hepatitis A vaccine since 1996. Guidance on adult dosing of hepatitis A vaccine can be found [here](#).

Vaccine availability: CDPH has partnered 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 hepatitis A vaccination.

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| 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 . |

Contact:

- To report confirmed cases of hepatitis A, please contact Communicable Disease Hepatitis Surveillance at (phone) 312-746-6197; (fax) 312-746-6388.
- To access hepatitis A provider resources, including previous hepatitis A health alerts, visit www.chicagohan.org/hepa.
- Patient educational resources are available for download at www.cityofchicago.org/HepatitisA.