One of the most effective ways to reduce the spread of hepatitis A in Chicago is to ensure that those at highest risk of disease have received at least 1 dose of hepatitis A vaccine. Report suspected and confirmed cases immediately to Chicago Department of Public Health (CDPH) Communicable Disease Hepatitis Surveillance at (phone) 312-746-6197; (fax) 312-746-6388. Call 311 and ask for the Communicable disease physician on call for evenings, weekends, or holidays.

PREVENTION BEGINS WITH SCREENING FOR RISK FACTORS

**DO ANY OF THESE RISK FACTORS APPLY TO THE PATIENT?**
- Persons who use injection or non-injection illicit drugs
- Persons with chronic liver disease, such as cirrhosis, hepatitis B, or hepatitis C
- Men who have sex with men
- Persons who are homeless

If YES, screen for signs & symptoms of Hepatitis A and obtain vaccine history

**OBTAIN HISTORY OF HEP A VACCINE**
- Have you ever received the hepatitis A vaccine? If so, when?
- Were you ever diagnosed with hepatitis A? If so, when?

If the patient has received 1 or more doses of hepatitis A vaccination or has a history of hepatitis A infection, there is no need to proceed with screening.

If the patient has not received any doses of hepatitis A vaccination & has no known history of hepatitis A infection, proceed with screening.

**DETERMINE HEALTH INSURANCE**
- Do you currently have health insurance, including Medicaid or private insurance?

**ADMINISTER VACCINE**
- If YES, administer private vaccine and bill insurance.
- If patient answers NO, is not sure, or states that insurance doesn’t cover vaccines, please administer public stock vaccine.

**SYMPTOMATIC - Signs & Symptoms**
- Jaundice
- Fever
- Malaise
- Nausea
- Vomiting
- Anorexia
- Abdominal pain
- Diarrhea
- Dark urine
- Light stools

**ISOLATE**
- Observe standard precautions
- Observe contact precautions when caring for incontinent and diapered patients
- Observe hand hygiene with soap and water; wash hands for at least 10-20 seconds
- Confirm diagnosis with serum IgM testing

**INFORM**
- Public stock vaccine dose must be entered into I-CARE (Illinois Comprehensive Automated Immunization Registry Exchange)
- Patients with hepatitis A should avoid work in food establishments and healthcare/childcare settings until 2 weeks after symptom onset. Provide education to patients about hepatitis A, how it spreads, and how to prevent it.
- For additional healthcare provider resources, visit https://www.chicagohan.org/hepa.
- For educational materials, including palm cards and posters to download, visit www.cityofchicago.org/HepatitisA.

Adapted with permission from Dr. Kristi L. Koenig, EMS Medical Director, County of San Diego Health & Human Services Agency

**SOURCES**