

HEPATITIS A

Hepatitis A cases have increased in Clark County. There were 39 confirmed acute hepatitis A cases reported in 2018 versus 13 cases reported in 2017 and 12 cases reported in 2016. Of the total cases reported in 2018, 54 percent were injection and/or non-injection drug users, compared to 38 percent who were not using drugs and 8 percent unknown. Additionally, 18 percent of the total cases reported in 2018 were homeless.

PEOPLE WHO ARE AT INCREASED RISK FOR INFECTION



Men who have sex with men



People who are experiencing homelessness



People traveling to or working in countries that have a high or intermediate endemicity of hepatitis A



People who use injection and non-injection drugs



People who have occupational risk for infection



People who have chronic liver disease



Household members and other close personal contacts of adopted children newly arriving from countries with high or intermediate hepatitis A endemicity



People who have clotting-factor disorders



People with direct contact with people who have hepatitis A

HOW IS THE VIRUS SPREAD?

The hepatitis A virus is found in the feces (stool) of an infected person and is usually spread by the fecal-oral route. Hepatitis A may be spread by food prepared or handled by an infected person who does not wash his/her hands properly. Hepatitis A may be spread by water contaminated with human feces or by consumption of raw oysters. It may also be spread by close intimate contact (household or sexual) and by changing the diaper of an infected child.

SYMPTOMS OF HEPATITIS A CAN INCLUDE



Yellow eyes or skin



Abdominal pain



Pale stools



Dark urine

VACCINATING AGAINST HEPATITIS A



Southern Nevada Health District is encouraging community partners to provide hepatitis A vaccine to homeless individuals, people who use illicit drugs, and others with established risk factors who are not yet immunized.



Per Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommendations, the Health District is also asking agencies and providers to consider hepatitis A vaccination for people with ongoing, close contact with homeless individuals or those who use illicit drugs.

Hepatitis A vaccinations are available at

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