

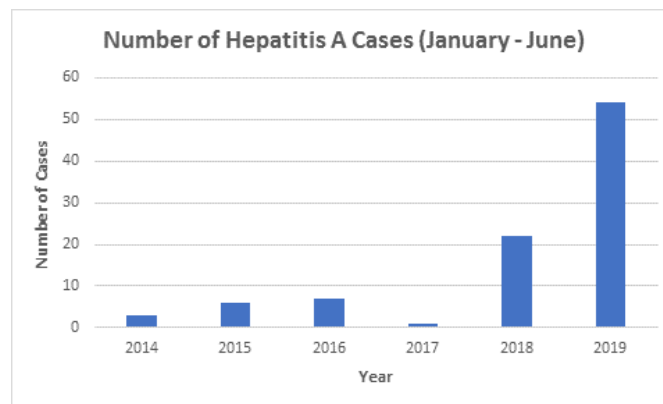


Public Health Alert Hepatitis A Outbreak in Clark County July 8, 2019

Situation

Since March 2017, CDC's Division of Viral Hepatitis (DVH) has assisted multiple state and local health departments with hepatitis A outbreaks in their jurisdictions. In the last few years, hepatitis A outbreaks have been occurring nationally with the first identified in 2016. As of June 28, 2019, 25 states have publicly reported 21,230 cases, 12,476 hospitalizations (59%) and 203 deaths.

Clark County is now experiencing an outbreak of hepatitis A. Between January 1 and June 30, the Southern Nevada Health District (SNHD) has confirmed 54 cases in 2019, compared to 22 in 2018, 1 in 2017 and 7 in 2016 for the same time period. Among those 54 cases, 49 were determined to be part of the outbreak, 46 were diagnosed in hospitals, and 40 were admitted. Ninety-four percent of these cases were people who use drugs, and 78% of these cases were people experiencing homelessness.



Disease Overview

Hepatitis A is a vaccine preventable, communicable disease of the liver caused by a virus. It is usually transmitted person to person through the fecal-oral route. It is a self-limiting disease that does not result in chronic infection. Symptoms typically include fatigue, low appetite, stomach pain, nausea and jaundice. The best way to prevent infection is to get vaccinated.

Recommendations for Healthcare Providers

SNHD is recommending that healthcare providers consider offering the hepatitis A vaccine to individuals at high risk for hepatitis A who are seen in your facility. Individuals at high risk for hepatitis A include:

- People who use drugs (injection or non-injection)
- People experiencing unstable housing or homelessness
- Men who have sex with men (MSM)
- People who are currently or were recently incarcerated
- People with chronic liver disease, including cirrhosis, hepatitis B, or hepatitis C
- Persons with direct contact with persons who have hepatitis A
- Travelers to countries with high or intermediate endemicity of hepatitis A virus infection
- Persons with clotting factor disorders

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

SNHD also recommends that healthcare workers review their immunization history to ensure staff who may be caring for ill patients are up to date with their hepatitis A vaccinations. Pre-vaccination serologic testing is not required to administer hepatitis A vaccine. Vaccinations should not be postponed if vaccination history cannot be obtained or records are unavailable.

To inquire about how your facility can help stop the spread of this outbreak, please contact the SNHD Office of Epidemiology and Disease Surveillance at (702)-759-1300 option 2. For information specifically regarding vaccines contact Joann Rupiper, Immunization Program Manager, at (702) 759-0815.



Joseph P. Iser, MD, DrPH, MSc
Chief Health Officer
Southern Nevada Health District

Health Alert: conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention

Health Advisory: provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action

Health Update: provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; unlikely to require immediate action

280 S. Decatur Blvd. P.O. Box 3902, Las Vegas, NV 89127 • phone (702) 759-1000 •

www.southernnevadahealthdistrict.org