

HEPATITIS A OUTBREAK

Hepatitis A cases have been steadily increasing in Clark County. Between January 1 and June 30, 2019, there were 49 outbreak-associated cases of hepatitis A. In 2018 there were 39 cases, in 2017 there were 13 cases, and in 2016 there were 12 cases. Of the outbreak cases reported in 2019, 94 percent were among people who use drugs and 80 percent were among those experiencing homelessness.

For updated outbreak information go to www.snhd.info/hep-a-control

PEOPLE WHO ARE AT INCREASED RISK FOR INFECTION

-  Men who have sex with men
-  People who use injection and non-injection drugs
-  People who have chronic liver disease
-  People who have clotting-factor disorders
-  People who are experiencing homelessness
-  People who have occupational risk for infection
-  People with direct contact with people who have hepatitis A
-  People traveling to or working in countries that have a high or intermediate endemicity of hepatitis A
-  Household members and other close personal contacts of adopted children newly arriving from countries with high or intermediate hepatitis A endemicity

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
-  Pale stools
-  Abdominal pain
-  Dark urine

- 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.

-  Learn more about hepatitis A at <https://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/outbreaks/2017March-HepatitisA.htm>

Hepatitis A vaccinations are available at

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