**Hepatitis A Update for Oregon Immunization Providers**

The Oregon Health Authority’s first approach to hepatitis A prevention is to support providers to vaccinate. The Oregon Immunization Program depot currently has no-cost doses of hepatitis A vaccine available for routine clients, as well as for outbreak prevention activities you might be able to undertake.

Multiple states across the country have reported outbreaks of hepatitis A, primarily among people who use drugs and people experiencing housing instability, transient living conditions or homelessness.

* + - In May 2019, 3 cases were identified in Central Oregon.
    - All three people report housing instability and drug use.

What we know:

* Hepatitis A is a highly contagious liver infection caused by the hepatitis A virus that is spread from person to person when a person unknowingly ingests the virus from objects, food, or drinks contaminated by small, undetected amounts of stool (poop) from an infected person.
* You might get poop in your mouth through unwashed hands, changing diapers, using contaminated food or utensils, having sex or close contact with an infected person or sharing drugs with an infected person.
* Most adults in Oregon are susceptible to hepatitis A. Most school children have been vaccinated and are protected.
* Integrating routine hepatitis A vaccination into health care services for at-risk populations will reduce the risk for large-scale outbreaks.

Providers - please screen for and promote hepatitis A vaccination in your clinics for those recommended for vaccination in Oregon:

* Persons traveling to hepatitis A endemic countries
* Household members of those arriving from hepatitis A endemic countries
* Injection drug users
* Persons working with non-human primates or with hepatitis A virus in a research laboratory
* Persons with chronic liver disease and persons with clotting factor disorders
* All clients seen in STD clinics
* Any person wishing to obtain immunity

To request hepatitis A vaccine for an outbreak prevention activity, [go here](file:///C:\Users\OR0014987\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\INetCache\Content.Outlook\B9MXA2XL\%5b‎6\‎10\‎2019%2011:42%20AM%5d%20%20Anne%20VANCUREN:).  To order vaccine for routine use, order via your normal channels.

**From January 1, 2017 to date we have had 55 reported cases of hepatitis A.**

* 23 reported foreign travel
* 13 reported household members with foreign travel
* 5 reported MSM
* 8 reported illicit drug use (not injection)
* 4 reported injection drug use
* 3 reported homelessness

**Recommendations for Health Care Providers –**

1. Consider hepatitis A as a diagnosis in anyone with jaundice and clinically compatible symptoms.
2. Encourage persons who have been exposed recently to HAV and who have not been vaccinated to be administered one dose of single-antigen hepatitis A vaccine or immune globulin (IG) as soon as possible, **within 2 weeks after exposure**. [Guidelines](https://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/outbreaks/InterimOutbreakGuidance-HAV-VaccineAdmin.htm) vary by age and health status

[OHA Immunization Program Hepatitis A Standing Order – 4/22/19](https://www.oregon.gov/oha/PH/PREVENTIONWELLNESS/VACCINESIMMUNIZATION/IMMUNIZATIONPROVIDERRESOURCES/Documents/SOHepA.pdf)

1. Consider saving serum samples for additional testing to assist public health officials in the investigation of transmission (i.e., confirmation of antibody test, HAV RNA test, genotyping, and sequencing). Contact the public health department for assistance with submitting specimens for molecular characterization.

1. Ensure all persons diagnosed with hepatitis A are reported to the health department in a timely manner.

1. Encourage hepatitis A vaccination for homeless individuals in areas where hepatitis A outbreaks are occurring.

1. Encourage hepatitis A vaccination for persons who report drug use or other risk factors for hepatitis A.

[Here](https://www.oregon.gov/oha/ph/preparedness/partners/pages/riskcommunicationtools.aspx) is the link to the CERC toolkit with a hepatitis A graphic fact sheet and bookmarks.