Butler County General Health District
Hepatitis A Outbreak Investigation Update (2/25/19)

Hepatitis A Cases
Butler County Residents, 2018-2019

Total # of Confirmed Cases: 352*
Outbreak-Linked Cases: 279 † (as of 2/25/19)
Total Number of Deaths: 2
First Case Reported: 1/9/2018
Last Case Reported (so far): 2/19/2019
Age Range: 3-84

The average number of confirmed Hepatitis A cases in Butler County in the past (2013-2017) was 0 to 1 case per year.

Figure 1 shows all “confirmed” Hepatitis A cases in Butler County as of 2/25/19. Due to delays in reporting, the numbers of confirmed cases on Figure 1 are subject to change between weekly reports and confirmed case counts for the most recent weeks are more likely to increase.

*Data is provisional – only confirmed Hepatitis A cases are included in counts. Report reflects time period of the 2018-2019 Ohio Hepatitis A Outbreak (Jan 2018 – Present), measured in MMWR week intervals, unless otherwise noted. Data accessed from the Ohio Disease Reporting System (ODRS) on 2/25/19.

† Case definitions for confirmed outbreak-linked cases are those that meet ODH-specified clinical and laboratory criteria, which are provided on page 3 of this report.

Figure 2. Outbreak-Linked Hepatitis A Cases by Facility of Diagnosis
Butler County Residents, 2018-2019
Outbreak-Linked Hepatitis A Cases – Demographic Information
Butler County Residents, 2018-2019
(as of 2/25/19)

Figure 3. Confirmed Hepatitis A Cases by City of Residence and Date Reported
Butler County Residents 2018-2019 (Top Three Cities)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>City</th>
<th>Number of Cases</th>
<th>Rate (per 100,000 residents)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hamilton</td>
<td>159</td>
<td>256 per 100,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middletown</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>119 per 100,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fairfield + Fairfield Township</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>47 per 100,000</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Figures 3 and 4 show data for the cities in Butler County with the highest numbers of outbreak-linked cases of Hepatitis A as of 2/25/19.
ODH Update: Ohio Hepatitis A Outbreak Cases

ODRS Outbreak Title: Hepatitis A Statewide Community Outbreak 2018

Hepatitis A Outbreak Summary (February 25th, 2019):

- Number of cases: 1819
- Illness onset range: 01/05/2018 - 02/20/2019
- Age range: 1-84 years
- Gender: 60% male
- Number of hospitalizations: 1140 (63%)
- Number of deaths: 7
- Number of counties with cases: 69 (78%)

Ohio Hepatitis A Outbreak Case Definition:

CLINICAL CRITERIA

An acute illness with a discrete onset since January 1, 2018 of any sign or symptom consistent with acute viral hepatitis (e.g., fever, headache, malaise, anorexia, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea and abdominal pain), and either

- Jaundice, OR
- Elevated aspartate aminotransferase (AST) or alanine aminotransferase (ALT) levels (>200 IU/L)
LABORATORY CRITERIA

- Immunoglobulin M (IgM) antibody to hepatitis A virus (anti-HAV) positive, OR
- Nucleic acid amplification test (NAAT) for hepatitis A virus RNA positive (including PCR or genotype testing)

CONFIRMED HEPATITIS A OUTBREAK CASE

- A case with a specimen that matches the circulating outbreak strain (genotype 1B), OR
- A case that meets the clinical and laboratory criteria, OR
- A case that meets the clinical criteria and occurs in a person who has an epidemiologic link with a person who has laboratory-confirmed hepatitis A (i.e., household contact, drug partner or sexual contact with an infected person during the 15-50 days before the onset of symptoms)

EXCLUSIONS

A case will be excluded if any of the following conditions apply:

- In the absence of known risk factors (illicit drug use, men who have sex with men, homelessness, incarceration or domestic travel to an area with a known outbreak), any illness that occurs in a patient who reports travel to a country or U.S. territory with endemic hepatitis A during the 15-50 days before symptom onset, OR
- Specimen is identified as any genotype other than 1B, OR
- Specimen collected within four weeks of symptom onset is negative for HAV RNA, OR
- A more likely clinical explanation is available to account for clinical symptoms and laboratory findings

For more information, please call the Ohio Department of Health Bureau of Infectious Diseases at (614) 995-5599.

Source: https://www.odh.ohio.gov/hepa
Hepatitis A Outbreak Cases by County, Ohio, 2018-2019

February 25, 2019

Data analyzed 02/25/19, Outbreak Response and Bioterrorism Investigation Team, Bureau of Infectious Diseases, Ohio Department of Health, 2019.

Page Updated: 2/25/2019
Source: https://www.odh.ohio.gov/hepa
Please direct any questions/comments/concerns regarding this report to:
Andrew Schwartz MPH, MS, Epidemiologist (BCGHD) – schwartzAT@butlercountyohio.org / (513) 887-4016
What is Public Health Doing to Decrease the Number of Hepatitis A Cases in Butler County?

Every case is interviewed and all contacts are assisted to get vaccinated. In addition:

- **Vaccination**
  - As of 2/25/19
  - 2,253 Vaccinations given to high risk groups (illicit drug users, incarcerated, homeless, and men who have sex with men) by the three public health departments / districts in Butler County. Additional vaccinations have been given by providers and clinics.

- **Education**
  - As of 2/25/19
  - 24,738 Information given to health care and drug treatment providers, hospitals, clinics, restaurants, homeless shelters, and the public via fliers, faxes, website, social media.

- **Policy Change**
  - As of 2/25/19
  - 12 Policy changes requested of healthcare and drug treatment providers, insurance companies, restaurants.

- **Sanitation**
  - As of 2/25/19
  - 23,784 Information cards about sanitizing to prevent Hepatitis A given to restaurants, food service workers.
Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Hepatitis A

What is hepatitis A?
Hepatitis A is a highly contagious (spreads person-to-person) liver disease caused by the hepatitis A virus (germ). Mild cases can last a few weeks while severe cases can last several months.

How is hepatitis A spread?
Hepatitis A spreads by putting something in your mouth (object, food, or drink) that has been in contact with the feces (poop) of an infected person.

Hepatitis A can be spread by:
• Forgetting to wash your hands after using the bathroom or changing diapers
• Having sexual contact with infected partner(s)
• Consuming food or drinks that are contaminated by the virus

Who is at risk for hepatitis A?
Anyone can get hepatitis A, but you are at a higher risk if you are in one of these groups:
• IV and other illicit drug users, including marijuana
• Those incarcerated or recently in jail
• Those experiencing homelessness
• Men who have sex with men
• Those having sexual contact with someone who has hepatitis A
• Those who live or work with someone who has hepatitis A

What are the symptoms of hepatitis A?
Not everyone shows symptoms. If symptoms develop, they usually appear 2 to 6 weeks after infection. Symptoms can include:
• Fever
• Feeling tired
• Loss of appetite
• Nausea
• Vomiting
• Stomach pain
• Dark urine (pee)
• Grey stool
• Joint pain
• Yellowing of the skin and eyes

How is hepatitis A treated?
Treatment includes rest, good nutrition, fluids, and medical monitoring. Some people may need to be hospitalized. Most people who get hepatitis A recover completely and don’t have lasting liver damage. It’s important to see a doctor if you have symptoms of hepatitis A.

How can hepatitis A be prevented?
The best way to prevent hepatitis A is by getting vaccinated. The vaccine is safe and effective. You can get a shot for hepatitis A at:
• Your own doctor or primary care provider
• Primary Health Solutions
• Centerpoint
• Local pharmacies (Kroger, Walgreens, CVS, Meijer, Walmart, etc.)
• Retail clinics (Kroger Littler Clinic, etc.)
• Urgent care offices.

If you have no insurance or have other barriers to getting vaccinated, please contact the Butler County General Health District (513-863-7080), City of Hamilton Health Department (513-425-1818), or the City of Middletown Health Department (513-425-1818).

You can also prevent the spread of hepatitis A by washing hands with soap and water:
• Before eating or preparing food
• After using the bathroom or changing diapers

(12/11/18)

Who should get vaccinated?
• IV and other illicit drug users, including marijuana users
• Those incarcerated or recently in jail
• Those experiencing homelessness
• Men who have sex with men
• Those having sexual contact with someone who has hepatitis A
• Those who live or work with someone who has hepatitis A

For more information:
Butler County General Health District
http://health.bcohio.us/our_services/hepatitis_info.php#

Ohio Department of Health
https://www.odh.ohio.gov/hepa

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
https://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/hav/index.htm

Butler County General Health District
http://health.bcohio.us

Middletown City Health Department
https://www.cityofmiddletown.org/271/Health

City of Hamilton Health Department
https://www.hamilton-city.org/240/Health-Department
Butler County is currently leading the state in cases of 

*Hepatitis A*

**Vaccination provides the surest way to prevent the disease**

High risk groups in particular should get vaccinated: IV and other illicit drug users including marijuana users, those incarcerated or recently in jail, those experiencing homelessness, and men who have sex with men. This includes those who live or work with these high risk groups. Others who want to be protected are also encouraged to get vaccinated. Food handlers in the high risk groups are encouraged to get vaccinated!

**Where can I get a shot for Hepatitis A?**

- Your own doctor or primary care provider
- Primary Health Solutions
- Centerpoint
- Local pharmacies: Kroger, Walgreens, CVS, Meijer, Walmart, etc.
- Retail clinics: Kroger Little Clinic, etc.
- Urgent Care Offices
- Butler County General Health District (513-863-1770), City of Hamilton Health Department (513-785-7080), or City of Middletown Health Department (513-425-1818) if you have no insurance or other barriers.

**Please call for pricing, accepted insurances, and availability of vaccine**

Revised 11/2018