For Immediate Release

October 26, 2018

Contacts: Butler County General Health District (513) 863-1770
City of Hamilton Health Department (513) 785-7080
City of Middletown Health Department (513) 425-1818

HEPATITIS A IS HERE IN BUTLER COUNTY—Protect Yourself

Butler County is leading Ohio for the number of cases of hepatitis A

As of October 20, 2018, we have had 127 cases linked to a statewide outbreak. In the past 5 years, we have averaged 1 case/year.

The Butler County Health District, City of Hamilton Health Department, and City of Middletown Health Department would like to take this opportunity to discuss Hepatitis A vaccination recommendations.

Hepatitis A is a vaccine-preventable illness and vaccinating high risk individuals or those who have contact with high risk individuals is one way we can stop this outbreak.

The following groups are considered to be at highest risk in this outbreak and should be vaccinated:

- All close contacts of persons diagnosed with hepatitis A (if not previously vaccinated, contacts should receive prophylactic vaccination within 2 weeks of exposure, or onset of jaundice in the ill person)
- Persons who use injection and non-injection illicit drugs including marijuana
- Persons who are experiencing homelessness or who are in transient living conditions
- Persons currently or recently incarcerated
- Men who have sex with men
- Persons with chronic liver disease, cirrhosis, hepatitis B or C, or at risk for complications from hepatitis A
- Persons who work with or have close contact with the high risk populations
- Persons in food handling/food preparation jobs who are also in the high risk groups
Others who may also be offered the hepatitis A vaccination include:

- All children (routine vaccination)
- Persons who are at increased risk for infection
- Anyone who wants protection against Hepatitis A infection

If you are a health care provider, please assist us in this outbreak by stocking and offering each and every patient a vaccination for hepatitis A if they fit one of the high risk groups listed above.

If you are a member of the public, live or work with high risk groups, please ask your health care provider, CVS, Walgreens, Kroger, Meijer, Walmart, other retail clinic, or urgent care about vaccination. Local health departments may also offer the hepatitis A shots. See phone numbers below.

For our weekly Butler County Hepatitis A Outbreak Report and other additional information, please visit http://health.bcohio.us/

Thank you,

Jenny Bailer, RN,MS  Kay Farrar, BSN,RN  Jackie Phillips, MPH, BSN,RN
Health Commissioner  Health Commissioner  Health Commissioner
Butler County  City of Hamilton  City of Middletown
Health District  Health Department  Health Department
513-863-1770  513-785-7080  513-425-1818

Michelle Burch, MD  Thomas Catalanotto, MD  Paul Jennewine, MD
Medical Director  Medical Director  Medical Director
Butler County  City of Hamilton  City of Middletown
Health District  Health Department  Health Department
513-863-1770  513-785-7080  513-425-1818
HEPATITIS A IS HERE IN BUTLER COUNTY!

BUTLER COUNTY IS LEADING THE STATE FOR NUMBER OF HEPATITIS A CASES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>IF YOU ARE:</th>
<th>YOU CAN TAKE THESE ACTION STEPS TO HELP REDUCE HEPATITIS A:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A member of a high risk group (injection/non-injection drug user, homelessness/transient living conditions, currently/recently incarcerated, men who have sex with men, chronic liver disease such as cirrhosis, Hepatitis B/C)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
  - Get vaccinated! See options below.  
  - Don’t share food, drinks, needles, smokes, towels, toothbrushes, or eating utensils.  
  - Don’t have sex with someone who has Hepatitis A infection.  
  - Always wash your hands with soap and water after going to the bathroom and before preparing/eating food.  
  - If you think you have Hepatitis A symptoms, seek medical attention (fever, fatigue, nausea, loss of appetite, jaundice – yellowing of skin, stomach pain, vomiting, dark urine, pale stools, or diarrhea).  
  - If you have Hepatitis A, tell your close contacts to get vaccinated within 2 weeks of exposure. |

| A health care provider (doctor, nurse practitioner)                                                                                           | Give vaccinations! Please order and administer Hepatitis A vaccines to high risk patients and to people who work with or have close contact with the high risk populations. If you utilize the database IMPACT SiS, enter vaccines given.  
  - Educate patients that close contacts of persons diagnosed with Hepatitis A should be vaccinated within 2 weeks of exposure!  
  - Encourage your patients to wash their hands with soap and water after going to the bathroom and before preparing/eating food. |

| A pharmacy/retail clinic                                                                                                                    | Give vaccinations! Please order and administer Hepatitis A vaccines (see above). |

| A restaurant owner or manager                                                                                                               | Encourage high risk employees to Get Vaccinated! Consider making it a corporate policy to cover this vaccination for your employees.  
  - Ensure all food employees practice diligent handwashing and use utensils or gloves to eliminate bare hand contact with ready to eat food. Follow guidelines for increased disinfection in food facilities.  
  - Remind your staff to report to PIC if they have been diagnosed with Hepatitis A or are having any symptoms.  
  - Contact your local health department for guidance on exclusion of ill employees and sanitation. |

| A drug treatment center, mental health provider serving at-risk populations, a homeless shelter, or food pantry | Give vaccinations! Get vaccinated! Please order and administer Hepatitis A vaccines, or partner with a provider who can assist with vaccinating (call your local health department, below).  
  - Your clients are high risk and need to be vaccinated! Your workers are also at risk.  
  - Encourage handwashing with soap and water after going to the bathroom and before preparing/eating food. |

| A first responder                                                                                                                             | Get vaccinated! if working with high risk populations. Use the appropriate PPE and practice thorough hand washing. |

| A member of the community                                                                                                                    | Get vaccinated! if you want protection against Hepatitis A infection, and practice thorough hand washing. |

| Where to get the Hepatitis A vaccine                                                                                                          | Ask your doctor for vaccination, or  
  - Go to Kroger, CVS, Walgreens, Meijer, Walmart, other retail clinic, or an urgent care, or  
  - Call a Community Clinic (Primary Health Solutions at 513-454-1111, or Centerpoint Health 513-318-1188), or  
  - If you have no insurance, call the Butler County Health District at 513-863-1770, City of Hamilton Health Department at 513-785-7080, City of Middletown Health Department at 513-425-1818. |

http://health.bcohio.us/
Butler County General Health District
Hepatitis A Outbreak Investigation Update (10/22/18)

Hepatitis A Cases
Butler County Residents, 2018

Total # of Confirmed Cases: 162*
Outbreak-Linked Cases: 127 (as of 10/22/18)
First Case Reported: 2/2/2018
Last Case Reported (so far): 10/19/2018
Age Range: 20-75

Confirmed Hepatitis A Cases by Date Reported
Butler County Residents, 2018

Outbreak-Linked Hepatitis A Cases by Facility of Diagnosis
Butler County Residents, 2018

*Data is provisional – confirmed Hepatitis A cases are included in counts. Report reflects time period of the 2018 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 10/22/2018.
### Outbreak-Linked Hepatitis A Cases – Demographic Information
Butler County Residents, 2018
(As of 10/22/18)

#### Outbreak-Linked Hepatitis A Cases by City of Residence
Butler County Residents, 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>City of Residence</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hamilton</td>
<td>100 (78.7%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fairfield Twp</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middletown</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fairfield</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trenton</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liberty Township</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Areas In Butler County</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Outbreak-Linked Hepatitis A Cases by Gender
Butler County Residents, 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>75 (59.1%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>52 (40.9%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Outbreak-Linked Hepatitis A Cases by Age
Butler County Residents, 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Range</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>20-24</td>
<td>7.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25-34</td>
<td>37.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35-44</td>
<td>34.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45+</td>
<td>19.7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Outbreak-Linked Hepatitis A Cases by Hospitalization Status
Butler County Residents, 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hospitalized?</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>66.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No/Unknown</td>
<td>33.9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Outbreak-Linked Hepatitis A Cases by High Risk Group History
Butler County Residents, 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>High Risk Group History?</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>92.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No/Unknown</td>
<td>7.1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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ODH Update: Ohio Hepatitis A Outbreak Cases (October 22, 2018):

ODRS Outbreak Title: Hepatitis A Statewide Community Outbreak 2018

Hepatitis A Outbreak Summary (October 22, 2018):

- Number of cases: 717
- Illness onset range: 01/05/2018 - 10/18/2018
- Age range: 12-81 years
- Gender: 60% male
- Number of hospitalizations: 419 (63%)
- Number of deaths: 1
- Number of counties with cases: 54 (61%)

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.

Page Updated: 10/22/2018
Source: https://www.odh.ohio.gov/hepa

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Hepatitis A Outbreak Cases by County, Ohio, 2018

October 22, 2018

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Source: https://www.odh.ohio.gov/hepa

Please direct any questions/comments/concerns regarding this report to:
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