



Public Health Advisory

Hepatitis A Outbreak – Risk Factors and Prevention

August 10, 2018

Local Health
Districts:

Adams County
(937) 544-5547

Brown County
(937) 378-6892

Butler County
(513) 863-1770

Cincinnati City
(513) 357-7280

Clermont County
(513) 732-7499

Clinton County
(937) 382-3829

Hamilton County
(513) 946-7800

Hamilton City
(513) 785-7080

Highland County
(937) 393-1941

Middletown City
(513) 425-1818

Norwood City
(513) 458-4600

Springdale City
(513) 346-5725

Warren County
(513) 695-1220

Dear First Responder,

In response to an increase in the number of cases, the Ohio Department of Health has declared a statewide outbreak of hepatitis A. The southwest Ohio region has likewise seen an increase in hepatitis A cases with the largest increases occurring in Hamilton County/City of Cincinnati, although multiple surrounding counties are also seeing cases.

Hepatitis A is a fecal-oral organism which is spread by ingestion of something contaminated with the virus of an infected person. The incubation period for hepatitis A ranges from 15 – 50 days, with an average of approximately 28 - 30 days. Persons with hepatitis A shed the virus in their stool, and are therefore infectious to others, from two weeks before symptom onset until ten days after onset. Unvaccinated individuals who have had close personal contact to someone with hepatitis A virus should receive a hepatitis A vaccine (or, in some cases, immune globulin) within two weeks after exposure to help prevent development of clinical hepatitis A. The hepatitis A vaccine, which is given as a two-shot series, is highly effective, and provides protection within 2 to 4 weeks after the first injection.

Attached is a flyer about hepatitis A, which includes information on transmission, signs and symptoms of illness, and risk factors for infection. The public health departments of SW Ohio are encouraging first responders to be aware of the increase in hepatitis A in the area particularly among high-risk groups, and to take appropriate precautions. Use of appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE), thorough handwashing, and vaccination with hepatitis A vaccine are measures that will help provide protection against acquiring this illness.

Additional information about hepatitis A is available by contacting your health care provider, your local public health department, or by visiting the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website at www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/hav.

On behalf of SW Ohio Medical Directors and Health Commissioners,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robin Thomas".

Robin Thomas, BSN RN
Regional Public Health Coordinator