

CDC has reported a multi-jurisdiction outbreak of

HEPATITIS A

among people who are homeless and people who use drugs

Since March 2017, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Division of Viral Hepatitis (DVH) has been assisting several state and local health departments with hepatitis A outbreaks, spread through person to person contact. The outbreaks have occurred primarily among people who are:



Homeless



People Who Use Illicit Drugs



Their Close Direct Contacts

Current locations affected by the outbreak are San Diego County, Santa Cruz County, and Los Angeles County in California, and the state of Utah.



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 CDC 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.

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



Abdominal pain



Pale stools



Dark urine

Hepatitis A vaccinations are available at

Southern Nevada Health District
280 S. Decatur Blvd. • Las Vegas, NV 89107
(702) 759-1000 • www.SNHD.info

