



MORROW COUNTY HEALTH DISTRICT

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PUBLIC HEALTH NOTIFICATION

SUBJECT: Increase in Hepatitis A Cases for the First Quarter of 2018

DATE SENT: April 18, 2019

URGENCY LEVEL:

- Health Alert - Conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention.
- Health Advisory - Provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action.
- Health Update - Provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; unlikely to require immediate action.

Please distribute to all appropriate physicians and staff in a timely manner.

DETAILS:

The Ohio Department of Health has reported that Ohio is experiencing an increase in the number of reported Hepatitis A cases since the beginning of 2018. Currently there are 31 cases in Ohio. This is considerably higher than in past years, where Ohio had reported four (4) cases in 2017, two (2) cases in 2016, and five (5) cases in 2015.

At this time, there are multiple Hepatitis A outbreaks occurring in various states across the US, including in states that border Ohio. Indiana, Kentucky, and Michigan have outbreaks currently, and some of the Ohio cases have been associated with neighboring states. Outbreaks have been linked to the following risk factors: contact with a known Hepatitis A case, homelessness, IV drug use, and men who have sex with men.

Hepatitis A is a vaccine-preventable viral disease that affects the liver. It is generally transmitted from person to person via the fecal-oral route, or consumption of contaminated food or water. A confirmed case of Hepatitis a includes both a positive lab result, and a discrete symptom onset, with either jaundice or elevated liver function tests.

Data for all reported Hepatitis A cases needs to be collected in order to mitigate and prevent further

spread of the disease. This information includes:

- travel history
 - history of meals, eating establishments, and other social activities when traveling
- assessment of risk factors identified in current outbreaks
 - contact of a known case, men who have sex with men, IV drug use, and homelessness
- if there is a history of contact with a known case, gather information regarding the exposure
- obtain information for any potentially exposed people to evaluate for post-exposure prophylaxis

Hepatitis A is a **Class B** Reportable Disease in Ohio, and should be reported to your local health department by the end of the **next business day** after identification of a potential case.

To report probable or suspected cases, or if we can be of further assistance, please contact:
Morrow County Health District at (419) 947-1545.

The Morrow County Health District is open:

Monday through Thursday from 7:15 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., and Friday 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Management staff can be reached for public health emergencies and reportable diseases after hours at: (567) 231-9740.

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