

Important Information for Providers: Hepatitis A Outbreak Prevention

Many states, including South Carolina, are experiencing outbreaks of hepatitis A. DHEC is working to prevent further spread of hepatitis A in our state.



Who is at greatest risk?

- People who use drugs
- People who are homeless
- Men who have sex with men
- People who were recently incarcerated
- People who have close contact with someone who is infected



Vaccination is the best protection!

- Provide high-risk individuals with single antigen hepatitis A vaccine or Twinrix (hepatitis A/B) vaccine
- Refer high-risk individuals to county health departments for no-cost hepatitis A vaccine



Consider hepatitis A as a diagnosis

- For patients with jaundice or clinically compatible symptoms, including abdominal pain, nausea, vomiting, fever, and dark urine. Patients may have elevated LFTs (e.g. AST/ALT, bilirubin)
- Initial serologic testing includes anti-HAV IgM and IgG
- Consider saving serum samples for additional testing by DHEC/CDC (Genotype testing is helpful in linking associated cases to outbreaks)



Report any suspect and/or confirmed cases

- Hepatitis A is required to be reported to DHEC regional public health offices by phone within 24 hours
- DHEC will assist with contact investigations and can provide post-exposure prophylaxis to contacts
- DHEC offers guidance for recommended lab testing

For DHEC immunization appointments, call:
1-855-472-3432.

Visit www.scdhec.gov/HepA to learn more about hepatitis A.

