

## HEPATITIS A OUTBREAK INVESTIGATED IN MICHIGAN Support from Healthcare Community Requested

October 31, 2017– A large hepatitis A outbreak continues to be investigated by local, state, and federal public health officials in southeast Michigan. Due to the potential spread of the disease, District Health Department #10 (DHD#10) encourages healthcare providers to promote the hepatitis A vaccination.

According to the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS), Since August 1, 2016, there have been 457 confirmed cases of hepatitis A associated with this outbreak in the City of Detroit, Wayne, Oakland, Monroe, Macomb, St. Clair, Lapeer, Livingston, Sanilac and Washtenaw, Ingham and Huron Counties reported through the Michigan Disease Surveillance System (MDSS). Primary cases range in age from 20 to 87 years with median age of 42 years. The majority are male (63.0%) and have been hospitalized (85.6%). Eighteen deaths are associated with the outbreak. Forty-eight percent of cases reported illicit drug use, 27% of cases were co-infected with hepatitis C, and 3% co-infected with hepatitis B. Six percent report recent incarceration, and 7.7% percent of male cases reported having had sex with men. Twenty-four percent of cases have been lost to follow up. Transmission is believed to be multi-modal as no single source has been identified.



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### COUNTIES SERVED:

Crawford  
Kalkaska  
Lake  
Manistee  
Mason  
Mecosta  
Missaukee  
Newaygo  
Oceana  
Wexford



[www.dhd10.org](http://www.dhd10.org)



[www.facebook.com/DHD10](https://www.facebook.com/DHD10)

Individuals at high risk for contracting hepatitis A are:

- Persons with a history of Substance Abuse
- Persons currently homeless or in transient living
- Men who have sex with men (MSM)
- Persons incarcerated in correctional facilities
- Food handlers
- Healthcare workers
- Persons with underlying liver disease
- Persons who are in close contact with any of the above risk groups
- Persons wishing to be Immune to Hepatitis A

Dr. Jennifer Morse, Medical Director for DHD#10, encourages good personal hygiene to prevent the spread of hepatitis A. "It is crucial that you wash your hands thoroughly after using the bathroom and before handling or eating food. There is no specific treatment, but if you think you have been exposed, ask your healthcare provider or local health department if Immune globulin is right for you. Getting the hepatitis A vaccine is your best source of protection".

Three of every four persons infected with hepatitis A virus have symptoms. When symptoms are present, they usually develop suddenly and may include fever, tiredness, loss of appetite, nausea, abdominal pain, dark urine, and yellowing of the skin and eyeballs. Adults have symptoms more often than children.

A person is most infectious about one week before symptoms appear and during the first week of symptoms. However, an infected person who has no symptoms can still spread the virus. Unlike some other forms of viral hepatitis, hepatitis A causes no long-term damage and is usually not fatal.

**About DHD #10**

District Health Department #10 (DHD #10) is Michigan's largest geographical health department, mandated to promote and protect the public from unsafe and hazardous conditions and provide methods of promoting good health and disease prevention. Some of the vital programs provided by DHD #10 include Immunizations, Infectious Disease Control, STI Testing and Counseling, WIC, Maternal Infant Health Program, Healthy Families Northern Michigan, Children's Special Health Services, Hearing and Vision Screening, Family Planning, Cancer Screening, Worksite Wellness, Smoking Cessation, Substance Use Prevention, Chronic Disease Prevention, and Environmental Health Services. DHD #10 serves Crawford, Kalkaska, Lake, Manistee, Mason, Mecosta, Missaukee, Newaygo, Oceana, and Wexford counties. For more information, visit [www.dhd10.org](http://www.dhd10.org).

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