



COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO HEALTH AGENCY
PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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PROVIDER HEALTH ADVISORY

Date: June 7, 2019
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Hepatitis A: Be Alert for Illness and Contact Public Health Dept with Suspect Cases Three Cases Confirmed in SLO County Following Private Catered Event

Following the confirmation of three cases of hepatitis A within two weeks in San Luis Obispo County, the County Public Health Department asks providers to be alert for illness suggestive of hepatitis A, report all suspect cases promptly and offer vaccination as needed.

The cases appear to be linked to a private catered event on May 3. The Public Health Department is actively investigating these cases and contacting people who may have been exposed to the virus at the event or through close personal contact with those who attended. These cases do not appear to be linked to recent state and national outbreaks of hepatitis A among people experiencing homelessness and people who use illicit drugs.

The risk to the general public remains low.

In light of these cases, the Public Health Department asks clinicians to:

Be alert for hepatitis A. Among adults and children over age 6, symptoms usually occur abruptly and can include:

- Fever
- Fatigue
- Loss of appetite
- Nausea
- Vomiting
- Abdominal pain
- Jaundice (>70% of adults with hepatitis A infection have jaundice)
- Dark urine or light-colored stools
- Diarrhea
- Joint pain

Symptoms of hepatitis A usually last less than two months. Note that serologic testing for hepatitis A is not recommended for asymptomatic people.

Report hepatitis A cases and suspect cases promptly. Providers are required by law to report hepatitis A to the local Public Health Department **within one working day** of identification.

Providers may report by:

- Phone: 805-781-5500 (M-F, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.) or 805-781-4553 (after hours)
- Electronically via CalREDIE
- By confidential fax to 805-781-5543. (Download the reporting form at slocounty.ca.gov/CMR-Form-A.)

Public Health Department

2191 Johnson Avenue | San Luis Obispo, CA 93401 | (P) 805-781-5500 | (F) 805-781-5543

www.slopublichealth.org

Offer vaccine to patients in recommended groups. The CDC Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices recommends hepatitis A vaccination for:

- all children at age 1 year
- people with unstable housing or experiencing homelessness
- people who are at increased risk for infection or complications
- any other person wishing to obtain immunity

Patients can also get the hepatitis A vaccine from their primary care providers, at a pharmacy, or from the Public Health Department.

For more information about Hepatitis A, see www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/hav.

This notice is also available online at www.slopublichealth.org.