



## Hepatitis A Vaccination Recommendations during the Current San Diego County Outbreak

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) [routinely recommends](#) hepatitis A vaccination for all children, for persons who are at increased risk for infection, and **for any person wishing to obtain immunity**. According to CDC, the following persons are either at increased risk for infection or are more likely to suffer morbidity or mortality and should be vaccinated:

- Persons [traveling](#) to or working in countries that have high or intermediate rates of hepatitis A;
- Men who have sex with men;
- Users of illicit injection and non-injection drugs;
- Persons who have chronic liver disease (i.e., cirrhosis, hepatitis B or C);
- Persons who have clotting-factor disorders; and
- Household members, and other close personal contacts, of adopted children newly arriving from countries with high or intermediate hepatitis A endemicity.

Due to current outbreak, the San Diego County Public Health Officer strongly recommends that, in addition to the above at-risk groups, the following people be vaccinated:

- Homeless individuals, including those who are transiently housed in shelters, those in single-room occupancy facilities with shared restrooms, and any person living without shelter;
- Individuals who have close contact with homeless and illicit drug users or their environment via employment, volunteer activities, etc. This includes, but is not limited to:
  - Staff at homeless service providers and substance use treatment agencies,
  - Public safety and emergency medical services workers,
  - Healthcare personnel, and
  - Sanitation and janitorial workers; and
- Food handlers in San Diego County catering to adult populations.

Providers should check the [San Diego Immunization Registry](#) to see if patients are already vaccinated and note any vaccinations given.

Providers who do not have available vaccine may direct insured patients to call [2-1-1 San Diego](#) to locate the nearest pharmacy that can provide the vaccine. Providers may direct uninsured patients to call [2-1-1 San Diego](#) to locate the nearest [community health clinic](#) or [County Public Health Center](#).

Providers who care for homeless and/or drug-using individuals may contact the [County Immunization Program](#) at 619-692-5607 (Monday-Friday, 8 AM-5 PM) to learn how to obtain 317-funded Hepatitis A virus vaccine for use during this outbreak.

Under the [Affordable Care Act](#), HAV vaccines are covered as preventive care without a deductible or copay.

Adult Hepatitis A virus vaccination is [covered by Medi-Cal](#) without prior authorization. Billing information is available [here](#) (see page 3).