



County of San Diego

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WILMA J. WOOTEN, M.D., M.P.H.
PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICER

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TO: Community Clinics
Hospitals
Pharmacies

FROM: Wilma J. Wooten, M.D., M.P.H.,
Public Health Officer,
Public Health Services

REQUEST TO CONTINUE ADMINISTERING HEPATITIS A VACCINATIONS TO AT-RISK POPULATIONS

On behalf of the County of San Diego Health and Human Services Agency (HHS) Department of Public Health Services (PHS), I am sending you this letter to remind you of the importance of administering hepatitis A virus (HAV) vaccines to at-risk populations because recently HAV infections have been reported to be increasing in these populations ([Health Advisory: Increase in Hepatitis A Virus Infections including Persons Experiencing Homelessness in San Diego County](#)).

The federal Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention identifies the following groups as at increased risk for HAV infection: travelers to countries with high or intermediate endemic rates of HAV, gay and bisexual men, and users of injection and non-injection illicit drugs. People experiencing homelessness are also at increased risk of infection due to poor access to sanitation and hygiene, as well as higher morbidity and mortality compared to the general population. Individuals with chronic liver conditions, such as hepatitis B or C, are also recommended to get the HAV vaccine because of their increased morbidity and mortality risks should they contract HAV.

In addition to the above groups, ACIP recommends HAV vaccination for any person wishing to obtain immunity. This recommendation is intended to facilitate vaccination of at-risk individuals who may not wish to disclose their at-risk behaviors, not to encourage vaccination of the general public.

Sincerely,

Ankita Kadakia (On Behalf of Wilma J. Wooten)

WILMA J. WOOTEN, M.D., M.P.H.
Public Health Officer
Public Health Services
Attachments