



County of San Diego

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

August 24, 2018

TO: Community Clinics
Hospitals
Pharmacies

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

REQUEST TO CONTINUE ADMINISTERING HEPATITIS A VACCINATIONS TO OUTBREAK 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 the current outbreak's at-risk populations.

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, users of injection and non-injection illicit drugs, and persons with clotting factor disorders. The homeless are also at increased risk of infection in the current outbreak due to poor access to sanitation and hygiene, as well as higher morbidity and mortality compared to the general population. Individuals who have frequent, ongoing contact with the above populations may also be at increased risk of infection and are recommended for HAV vaccination.

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. Food handlers are recommended to be vaccinated against HAV because of their ability to spread the virus should they become infected.

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.

Hepatitis A Vaccinations

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For additional information about the outbreak and associated resources, please go to the [County of San Diego Hepatitis A Outbreak webpage](#) where you will find data about the outbreak, press releases, FAQs, and other resources.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Wilma J. Wooten, M.D." in a cursive style.

WILMA J. WOOTEN, M.D., M.P.H.

Public Health Officer & Director

Public Health Services