



To: CAHAN San Diego Participants
Date: August 31, 2018
From: Public Health Services, Epidemiology and Immunizations Services Branch

Hepatitis A Virus (HAV) Vaccination Reminder for Healthcare Providers

During the recent hepatitis A outbreak in San Diego, many of the individuals who became infected belonged to groups previously recommended to receive hepatitis A vaccinations by the Federal Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices. In order to prevent future cases of hepatitis A, the County of San Diego Public Health Officer encourages providers to continue the routine review and administration of adult hepatitis A vaccine to all individuals who are at risk for hepatitis A. At-risk populations include users of injection and non-injection illicit drugs, homeless individuals, men who have sex with men, persons with chronic liver disease, travelers to countries with high or intermediate endemic rates of HAV, and persons with clotting factor disorders.

Please continue to assist in the hepatitis A outbreak response by distributing the attached letter to the healthcare providers in your mailing list. 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.

Thank you for your assistance and support to our community.

CAHAN San Diego

County of San Diego, Health & Human Services Agency
Epidemiology and Immunization Services Branch
Phone: (619) 692-8499, Fax: (858) 715-6458
Urgent Phone for pm/weekends/holidays: (858) 565-5255
E-mail: cahan@sdcounty.ca.gov
Public-Access Website: <http://www.cahansandiego.com>



County of San Diego

NICK MACCHIONE, FACHE
AGENCY DIRECTOR

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY
PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES
3851 ROSECRANS STREET, MAIL STOP P-578
SAN DIEGO, CA 92110-3134
(619) 531-5800 • FAX (619) 542-4186

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

August 24, 2018

Page 2 of 2

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