



To: CAHAN San Diego Participants
Date: April 22, 2022
From: Public Health Services

Health Advisory: Pediatric Hepatitis Associated with Adenovirus Type 41 Infections

Key Messages

- Nine pediatric patients admitted in Alabama from October 2021 through February 2022 for hepatitis of unknown etiology. Whole genome sequencing identified adenovirus type 41 infections. Two of these patients required liver transplant.
- Children with hepatitis that tested negative for hepatitis A, B, C, D, and E have been reported in other countries.
- Clinicians who become aware of similar cases are asked to report them to San Diego County Epidemiology.

Situation

On April 21, 2022, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has issued a [Health Advisory](#) to notify clinicians and public health authorities of a cluster of children identified with hepatitis and adenovirus infection.

Background

In November 2021, clinicians in [Alabama notified CDC](#) of five pediatric patients with significant liver injury, including three with acute liver failure, who also tested positive for adenovirus. All children were previously healthy. None had COVID-19. Case-finding efforts identified four additional pediatric patients with hepatitis and adenovirus infection bringing the total to nine patients admitted, from October 2021 to February 2022. All five specimens obtained for viral testing revealed adenovirus type 41, according to whole genome sequencing. Two patients required liver transplant; no patients died. The situation is under investigation. Cases of pediatric hepatitis in children who tested negative for hepatitis viruses A, B, C, D, and E were [reported earlier this month](#) in the United Kingdom, including some with adenovirus infection.

Actions Requested

1. Consider adenovirus testing for pediatric patients with hepatitis of unknown etiology. Nucleic acid amplification testing, or NAAT (i.e., PCR) is preferred for adenovirus detection and may be performed on respiratory specimens, stool or rectal swabs, or blood.
2. Report pediatric patients with hepatitis of unknown etiology to County Epidemiology by calling 619-692-8499, during business hours Monday through Friday.

Resources

CDC: [Adenoviruses](#)

CDPH: [CAHAN: Clusters of Children in the United States with Hepatitis Potentially Associated with Adenovirus Infection](#)

Thank you for your participation.

CAHAN San Diego

County of San Diego Health & Human Services Agency
Phone: (619) 692-8499; Fax: (858) 715-6458

Epidemiology and Immunization Services Branch
Urgent Phone for pm/weekends/holidays: (858) 565-5255

E-mail: cahan@sdcounty.ca.gov

Public Website: <http://www.cahansandiego.com>

Secure Website: <http://cahan.ca.gov>