



Hepatitis A Summary and Frequently Asked Questions

Updated 9/23/2017

Summary of San Diego Hepatitis A Outbreak, 2017

On September 1, 2017, the San Diego County Public Health Officer declared a [local public health emergency](#) due to the ongoing Hepatitis A virus outbreak in the county. The County Board of Supervisors ratified this declaration on September 6, 2017 and again on September 12, 2017. The declaration shall be ratified every two weeks by the County Board of Supervisors until the declaration is rescinded.

Since early 2017, the County of San Diego Health and Human Services Agency' Public Health Services has been investigating the Hepatitis A outbreak. Control of the outbreak has been challenging because of the long time that it takes for the disease to develop (15 to 50 days) after a person is exposed to the infection (i.e., incubation period) and the difficulty of contacting many individuals sickened with the illness because they are homeless and/or illicit drug users.

The outbreak is being spread person-to-person through contact with a fecal-contaminated environment. This is not foodborne outbreak; no common sources of food, beverage or drugs have been identified to contribute to this outbreak. The investigation, however, is ongoing. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), [person-to-person transmission](#) through close contact is the primary way people get hepatitis A in the United States. Vaccination efforts are being implemented in targeted locations by County staff and, in collaboration with, health care partners.

For weekly updates on total cases, hospitalizations, deaths, additional educational resources, and the latest public communications (e.g., news stories and health alerts), please go to the County's Hepatitis A [webpage](#).

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Overview

What is Hepatitis A?

- **Hepatitis A** is a highly contagious liver infection caused by the Hepatitis A virus. It can cause liver disease, which may last a few weeks and sometimes progress to a serious illness lasting months. In some cases, people can die, but in most cases the infection is self-limiting.

How is it spread?

- The Hepatitis A virus is spread primarily by the fecal-oral route. This is when an uninfected person takes in the virus by mouth after contact with contaminated objects, food, or drinks that have been contaminated with even a tiny or microscopic amount of the feces from an infected person. This can occur when:
 - Touching objects or eating food that someone with Hepatitis A virus infection handled, or
 - Having sex with someone who has a Hepatitis A virus infection (not limited to anal-oral contact).

I think I might have the Hepatitis A virus. What should I do?

- Go see your doctor right away or go to the closest Public Health Center.
- If you think you might have the Hepatitis A virus and have not been vaccinated against Hepatitis A, you might benefit from an injection of either immune globulin or the Hepatitis A vaccine. However, the vaccine or immune globulin must be given within the first 2 weeks after exposure to the virus to be effective. A health professional can decide what is best on the basis of your age and overall health.

If I have had Hepatitis A in the past, can I get it again?

- No. Once you completely recover from Hepatitis A, you develop antibodies that protect you from the virus for life. An antibody is a substance found in the blood that the body makes in response to a virus. Antibodies protect the body from disease by attaching to the virus and destroying it. A small minority of people affected by Hepatitis A can have recurring hepatitis. If you had Hepatitis A and are having similar symptoms a few months later, seek medical attention.



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How long does Hepatitis A virus survive outside the body?

- The Hepatitis A virus is extremely hardy. It is able to live outside the body for months, depending on the environmental conditions. According to the CDC, high temperatures, such as boiling or cooking food or liquids for at least 1 minute at 185°F (85°C), kills the virus, but freezing temperatures do not.

What's the difference between Hepatitis A, B, and C?

- Hepatitis A, Hepatitis B, and Hepatitis C are three different and common viruses that can cause hepatitis, or inflammation of the liver. Each virus has a different way of spreading and can affect the liver differently.

Hepatitis A appears only as a new infection, and does not become long-lasting. Healthy people with Hepatitis A usually improve without treatment. People with chronic liver disease who get Hepatitis A have an increased risk for complications or even death.

Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C can also begin as new infections, but in some people, the virus remains in the body, resulting in chronic disease and long-term liver problems. There are vaccines to prevent Hepatitis A and B; however, there is no vaccine for Hepatitis C.

If a person has had one type of viral hepatitis in the past, it is still possible to get the other types.

Symptoms / Diagnosis

What are the symptoms of Hepatitis A?

Some people with Hepatitis A do not have any symptoms. Symptoms can develop 2 to 7 weeks (15-50 days) after exposure to the virus. Adults are more likely to have symptoms than children. If you do have symptoms, they may include the following:

- Fever
- Fatigue
- Nausea
- Loss of appetite
- Vomiting
- Stomach pain
- Dark urine
- Clay-colored or pale stools (bowel movements)
- Joint pain



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- Jaundice (yellowing of the skin or eyes)

How long does it take for symptoms to appear after being exposed to, or in contact with, Hepatitis A?

- If symptoms occur, they usually appear anywhere from 2 to 7 weeks (15 -50 days) after exposure and typically develop over several days.

How long do Hepatitis A symptoms last?

- Hepatitis A symptoms usually last less than 2 months and infected people will generally be ill for about one month. In rare cases some people can remain symptomatic up to 6 months.

Can a person spread Hepatitis A without having symptoms?

- Yes. Some people, especially children, show no symptoms. In addition, a person can be infectious and spread the virus to others for up to 2 weeks before symptoms appear and for 1 week after developing jaundice.

I think I might have the Hepatitis A virus. What should I do?

- Call or go see your doctor right away. If it is a true emergency, call 911. A doctor can screen your symptoms and take a blood sample to help determine if you have Hepatitis A.

I was near someone who I think had Hepatitis A recently. What should I do?

- If you think you might have been exposed to someone with the Hepatitis A virus and have not been vaccinated against Hepatitis A, you would benefit from an injection of the Hepatitis A vaccine or immune globulin. However, the vaccine or immune globulin must be given within the first 2 weeks after you were exposed to be effective. A health professional can decide what is best on the basis of your age and overall health.

Prevention / Vaccination

How can Hepatitis A virus be prevented?

- **The best way to prevent Hepatitis A is with the safe and effective Hepatitis A vaccine.**
 - Get two shots of the Hepatitis A virus vaccine, six months apart.



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- Also, the vaccine may be given as a twin vaccine against both Hepatitis A and B, which is given as three shots over six months (months 0, 1, & 6).
- Don't have sex with someone who has Hepatitis A virus infection.
- Use your own towels, toothbrushes, and eating utensils.
- Don't share food, drinks, or smokes with other people.
- Wash hands after using the bathroom, changing diapers, and before preparing food or eating.

Where can I get vaccinated?

- Call your medical provider, pharmacist, or 2-1-1 to find a [community clinic](#) or [public health center](#) near you to request the Hepatitis A vaccine.

Who should be vaccinated?

- The following categories of people are routinely recommended to get the Hepatitis A vaccine by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices:
 - Users of injection and non-injection illegal drugs;
 - People with chronic liver conditions, such as cirrhosis, chronic Hepatitis C, & chronic Hepatitis B;
 - Men who have sex with men;
 - Travelers to countries with high or medium rates of Hepatitis A virus, OR adoptive parents of children from endemic countries;
 - Persons with clotting factor disorders; and
 - Any person who wishes to be immune to Hepatitis A.
- The San Diego County Public Health Officer recommends that the following categories of people in San Diego County should also get the vaccine due to the current Hepatitis A outbreak:
 - Homeless and housing unstable individuals
 - Individuals with ongoing, close contact with homeless and illicit drug using individuals, including health care, public safety and sanitation workers.
 - Individuals who work in homeless shelters and homeless and drug treatment service provider agencies.
 - Food handlers

Why is vaccination “recommended” for a food handler?

- On August 21, 2017, the County Public Health Officer recommended that all food handlers be vaccinated against the Hepatitis A virus. Food handlers can become infected with Hepatitis A through causes unrelated to their food facility work; therefore, while handling food, they can potentially spread the virus before the infection is recognized. (Remember someone can be infectious for two weeks prior to developing the symptoms of jaundice.)



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- This recommendation is warranted, due to the potential consequences of a food handler becoming ill, since Hepatitis A can be transmitted by contaminated food. A vaccine is recommended to prevent getting and spreading serious diseases that could result in poor health, missed work, medical bills, and not being able to care for family.
- Always check with your occupational or personal health provider first when seeking a vaccination. Most providers have a mechanism for their patients to obtain vaccinations, which often includes getting a vaccination from a local pharmacy. Medi-Cal covers this vaccine without prior authorization. Individuals who are uninsured or whose insurance does not cover routine vaccinations can go to a County Public Health Immunization Clinic to obtain the vaccine at no cost.
- It is also recommended that **any person** who wishes to obtain immunity to Hepatitis A get the vaccine from their healthcare provider. However, universal vaccination for Hepatitis A is **not** recommended.

What is the Hepatitis A vaccine?

- The Hepatitis A vaccine is an inactivated, not live, Hepatitis A virus. After someone gets a Hepatitis A vaccine, their body makes antibodies that protect them against the live virus if they were to be exposed to it in the future.

How many shots of the Hepatitis A vaccine do I need?

- The Hepatitis A vaccine is given as two shots, 6 months apart. The vaccine may be given as a twin vaccine against both Hepatitis A and B, which is given as three shots over six months (at 0, 1, and 6 months) for those 18 years of age and older.

Is the Hepatitis A vaccine safe and effective?

- Yes, the vaccine is safe and highly effective in preventing Hepatitis A virus infection. You will be protected approximately 2 to 4 weeks after the first injection and longer-term defense is gained with the second injection. If you do not remember whether you were vaccinated, ask your medical provider. Repeating the vaccination series is not harmful. Vaccination after the first shot is 90% effective.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), before the Hepatitis A vaccine became available in 1995, more than 250,000 people became infected with Hepatitis A each year in the U.S. In 2014, there were about 2,500 cases reported.

Will the Hepatitis A vaccine protect someone from other forms of hepatitis?

- Hepatitis A vaccine will only protect someone from Hepatitis A. There is both a separate vaccine for Hepatitis B and a combination vaccine that protects a person from Hepatitis A and Hepatitis B. No vaccine is available for Hepatitis C at this time.



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Can Hepatitis A vaccine be given to immunocompromised persons, such as hemodialysis patients or persons with AIDS?

- Yes. It can be given to people with compromised immune systems since Hepatitis A vaccine is inactivated and not “live.”

Can Hepatitis A vaccine be given to those that have Hepatitis C or other liver issues?

- Yes. Because Hepatitis A vaccine is inactivated (not “live”), it can be given to people with compromised immune systems. Hepatitis A vaccine is specifically recommended for those with Hepatitis C and other liver diseases, since individuals with existing liver disease (such as Hepatitis C) may be at risk for worse outcomes, if they get Hepatitis A.

Is it harmful to have an extra dose of Hepatitis A vaccine or to repeat the entire Hepatitis A vaccine series?

- No, getting extra doses of Hepatitis A vaccine is not harmful. Your medical provider should check the immunization registry when possible before administering the vaccine.

What should be done if the last dose of Hepatitis A vaccine is delayed?

- The second or last dose should be given by a health professional as soon as possible. The first dose does not need to be given again.

Who is at increased risk for getting Hepatitis A virus infection?

- Travelers to countries with high or medium rates of Hepatitis A virus.
- Men who have sex with men.
- Users of injection and non-injection illegal drugs.
- Persons with clotting factor disorders.
- During this outbreak, individuals with ongoing, close contact with homeless and illicit drug using individuals in San Diego County may also be at increased risk.

Who is at increased risk of serious illness from Hepatitis A virus infection?

- Individuals with chronic liver disease (i.e., cirrhosis and Hepatitis B or C) are at increased risk of having severe illness, including death, if they are infected with Hepatitis A virus. Individuals with other medical conditions may also be at increased risk of severe illness, as well.



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I routinely work with homeless and/or illicit drug using individuals. What precautions should I take?

- Most individuals who work with homeless and/or illicit drug users have a low risk of contracting Hepatitis A, especially if they comply with hand-washing and other hygiene requirements associated with their jobs.
- The best way to protect yourself is to continue to always use standard precautions AND get vaccinated.
- Under usual (non-outbreak) circumstances, occupational exposure does not warrant a routine recommendation to provide Hepatitis A virus vaccination. However, given the current outbreak, the County Public Health Officer recommends Hepatitis A virus vaccination for individuals with ongoing and, close contact with homeless and illicit drug using individuals in San Diego County. This includes persons working in health care, public safety, sanitation, homeless shelters, and homeless and behavioral service provider agencies. The County Public Health Officer also recommends Hepatitis A virus vaccination for all food handlers in San Diego County to reduce the potential risk of an infected food handler transmitting Hepatitis A virus to others.

I routinely work with homeless and/or illicit drug using individuals and am a health care worker. What precautions should I take?

- Staff in healthcare environments would be expected to be protected by utilizing standard precautions; however due to the ongoing outbreak it is also recommended that staff receive Hepatitis A virus vaccination for long-term protection.
- Please discuss with your primary care provider and/or occupational health if you are unsure.

What can local businesses do to prevent the further spread of Hepatitis A?

- Remind employees of the importance of hand-washing with soap and water after using the bathroom, and before preparing, serving, or eating food.
- Maintain routine and consistent cleaning of bathrooms for employees and the public, using a chlorine-based disinfectant (bleach) with a ratio of 1 and 2/3 cup of bleach to one gallon of water. Due to the high bleach concentration of this mix, rinse surfaces with water after 1 minute of contact time and wear gloves while cleaning.
- For employees in physical contact with others, especially those at risk for Hepatitis A, wear disposable gloves and wash hands after each encounter.
- Coordinate with your occupational health provider to determine if Hepatitis A vaccine should be offered to employees. Due to the ongoing outbreak, it is recommended that staff who handle food are vaccinated.

I think I might have the Hepatitis A virus, but I am not sure. Should I get vaccinated?



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- A doctor can determine whether or not you have Hepatitis A. However, getting the vaccine twice is not harmful.

I got a Hepatitis A vaccine 15-20 years ago because of military (or international travel). Is it still good?

- According to the CDC, protective levels of antibody to the Hepatitis A virus could be present for at least 25 years in adults and at least 14–20 years in children.

Can those who are recommended to be vaccinated get vaccinations free of charge?

- The Hepatitis A vaccine is one of many vaccines routinely recommended by public health authorities to adults. Individuals should always check with their personal or occupational health provider first when seeking a vaccination (e.g., influenza, pneumococcal, Hepatitis A, Hepatitis B). Most providers have a mechanism for their patients to obtain vaccinations, which often includes getting a vaccination from a local pharmacy. Medi-Cal covers this vaccine with no prior authorization. Individuals who are uninsured or whose insurance does not cover routine vaccination can go to a County of San Diego [public health center](#) to obtain the vaccine at no cost.

Will an employee's insurance cover costs of vaccination (outside of required co-pay) now that this is "recommended?"

- Yes.

I went to my doctor's to get a Hepatitis A vaccine but they were going to charge me for an office visit. Isn't this a free vaccine?

- Currently, the vaccine is free to at-risk populations. Individuals should always check with their personal or occupational health provider first when seeking a vaccination (e.g., influenza, pneumococcal, Hepatitis A, Hepatitis B). Most providers have a mechanism for their patients to obtain vaccinations, which often includes getting a vaccination from a local pharmacy. Medi-Cal covers this vaccine with no prior authorization. Individuals who are uninsured or whose insurance does not cover routine vaccination can go to a County of San Diego [public health center](#) to obtain the vaccine at no cost. To find the location nearest you, call 2-1-1.

I want the Hepatitis A vaccine and don't have insurance. How much does it typically cost if i have to pay out-of-pocket? Where should I go?



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- Individuals who are uninsured or whose insurance does not cover routine vaccination can go to a County of San Diego public health center to obtain the vaccine at no cost. To find the location nearest you, call 2-1-1.
- If you do not currently have health insurance, visit www.HealthCare.gov for more information about finding health insurance or the Affordable Care Act.
- Children younger than 19 years of age are eligible for Vaccine for Children (VFC) program, if they are Medicaid-eligible, American Indian or Alaska Native or have no health insurance. If you don't have insurance, or if it does not cover vaccines, the VFC program may be able to help. This program provides vaccines at no cost to doctors who serve eligible children.
- Adults age 19 years and older who are uninsured (have no health insurance) or under-insured (vaccine is not covered by their insurance) may be eligible to receive Hepatitis A vaccine through the Federal 317-funded Vaccine For Adults (VFA) program. This program provides vaccines at no cost to local health department immunization clinics and certain Federally Qualified Health Centers.

Where can a County employee get vaccinated?

- County employees should discuss this issue with your supervisor and departmental HR officer (DHRO).

Where can groups of homeless persons congregate in order to get vaccinated?

- The County is currently targeting areas with a large number of high-risk individuals. However, please call 2-1-1, if looking for the nearest vaccination location.

Where can the general public get Hepatitis A vaccine? Does the County offer free Hepatitis A vaccination for the general public? If so, where/when is it available?

- The County is currently prioritizing vaccination efforts to those individuals most at risk, which includes those who are homeless; illicit drug users; those who work with, serve, medically care for, or clean up after the homeless or illicit drug users; and food handlers.. Please discuss with your primary care provider, occupational health provider, or pharmacist if you are interested in a vaccine and do not meet one of the risk groups identified above.

Should I get vaccinated before traveling?

- Anyone considering traveling to or working in countries with high numbers of Hepatitis A infections should talk to a health professional about getting vaccinated. Visit www.cdc.gov/travel to see what precautions you should take before travelling to your specific destination. Hepatitis A is recommended for travel to countries in Central or South America, Mexico, and certain parts of Asia, Africa, and Eastern Europe. CDC's Travelers' Health site provides detailed information about Hepatitis A and other recommended vaccines at wwwn.cdc.gov/travel/yellowBookCH4-HepA.aspx.



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Is a prescription needed if an employee goes to a nearby pharmacy?

- No.

Is there enough vaccination for all recommended groups in the entire County?

- Currently, there are no shortages of this vaccine locally or nationally.

Can businesses that have employees who are recommended to be vaccinated require their employees to get vaccinated or show proof of vaccination?

- Businesses should consult with their human resources department about requiring a vaccine for employment.

Are two shots of vaccination required (or just one)?

- The recommended series is two shots, with the second given six months after the first vaccination. There is no requirement for vaccination.

Why declare a local health emergency?

- A local health emergency has been declared to raise awareness of the Hepatitis A outbreak. It allows for the activation of the County Medical Reserve Corp program. It may also allow for easier procurement processes. While no specific funding would be made available as a result of this declaration, this action would allow the County to request mutual aid, if necessary.

What area is covered by the local health emergency?

- The entire County of San Diego is covered by the local health emergency.

What vaccination efforts are underway?

- The County, in collaboration with our community health care, homeless, and behavioral health partners, have given thousands of vaccines in response to the outbreak and are striving to give thousands more.

Where have hand-washing stations been placed?

- The County is placing portable handwashing stations in the City of San Diego and other jurisdictions where there is a concentration of homeless people. Stations are being placed by a vendor who will be



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servicing the stations every day. The usage of stations is monitored and those with heavier usage will be serviced twice a day. An up-to-date map on the 2-1-1 website can be found [here](#).

What is being done to sanitize the streets and sidewalks?

- Under the local health emergency, direction has been given to sanitize areas where significant numbers of homeless persons are living, such as in the City of San Diego. Sanitation may help decrease Hepatitis A virus in these environments. These actions may lower the likelihood of the Hepatitis A virus infection spreading.

Who will be sanitizing the streets and sidewalks?

- The street sanitization is being done by the City of San Diego and may be performed by other jurisdictions with significant numbers of homeless individuals, where human waste is found on the public right-of-ways.

What other sanitation efforts are happening?

- Hygiene kits are also being assembled and distributed to partners. The kits contain water, non-alcohol hand sanitizer, cleaning wipes, clinic information, Hepatitis A information, and plastic bags.

Why isn't the County doing more to protect the public from this disease?

- Since early March when it was determined that the number of cases of Hepatitis A was greater than normal, especially in the homeless and illicit drug use populations, the County has been working relentlessly with other County departments and community partners (including homeless and drug treatments services providers, hospitals, federally qualified health clinics, incorporated municipalities, law enforcement, businesses, food and beverage industry associations, pharmacy board, and others) to address this unprecedented Hepatitis A outbreak. Many prevention and vaccination efforts have been conducted and are ongoing.

Our organization would like a presentation about Hepatitis A. Who should we contact?

- To request a County staff to come to your organization to give a Hepatitis A presentation, please contact the Epidemiology Program at 619-692-8499 or send an email to Epi.HHSA@sdcounty.ca.gov.

What if I need additional assistance?

If additional assistance is needed, please contact your healthcare provider, occupational health provider, or call the following:



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- Call 2-1-1 San Diego
- California AIDS, STD and Hepatitis Hotline—800-367-AIDS (2437) (24 hours/day, 7 days/week)
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Information Hotline—800-CDC-INFO (232-4636) (24 hours/day, 7 days/week)

Miscellaneous

I plan to visit San Diego soon. Should I cancel? What precautions should I take while I'm in San Diego? Should I get vaccinated before travel to San Diego?

- No. Cancelling your trip is not necessary. As with traveling to any location, remember that germs are everywhere and that the best way to prevent picking them up is to wash your hands after touching objects around you. Always wash your hands before eating and after using the restroom. Traveling to San Diego should not be a trigger to obtain a Hepatitis A vaccination; a vaccine is recommended for those at-risk individuals already described.

What is San Diego doing to protect visitors/tourists?

- Tourists and visitors are not at high-risk for getting Hepatitis A, However, any individual who is one of the persons that CDC recommends to get a Hepatitis A vaccine, should be vaccinated. The County of San Diego is working with all municipalities and businesses to increase public access to bathrooms for the homeless, to ensure appropriate sanitation. As well, the general public is advised to practice proper hand hygiene when using public bathrooms.
- From the San Diego Tourism Authority (SDTA), “The health and safety of visitors to San Diego is the highest priority for SDTA, our partners and the local tourism industry. As such, the San Diego Tourism Authority is committed to providing travelers with current, accurate information about traveling to the region safely. Traveling to San Diego is very safe. The current Hepatitis A outbreak has primarily affected San Diego’s homeless populations and/or illicit drug users. The County of San Diego and City of San Diego are currently taking steps to mitigate the spread of the illness, and the SDTA has confidence in the response efforts of our local authorities to combat the spread of this and any other infections.”

Does the San Diego Tourism Bureau know anything about the Hepatitis A outbreak?

- The San Diego Tourism Bureau is aware of the Hepatitis A outbreak and “will work to assure concerned potential visitors that it is safe to travel to San Diego.”



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How do I decontaminate library books?

- You do not need to decontaminate library books. However, please wash your hands with soap and water after reading if a book seems dusty or dirty.

Is tap water safe to drink?

- Yes, tap water is safe to drink. However, be cautious of sharing water with others and drinking after others, or people who might have the Hepatitis A virus infection.

I see a lot of homeless people use my gym for the bathroom and shower. I have seen them spit all over the place too. What is the gym doing to protect me?

- Businesses should download and implement the [disinfection guidelines](#) (also available in other languages [here](#)) and remind clients to wash hands and maintain proper hygiene. Those who patron these facilities should always remember to maintain proper hand hygiene, clean your equipment before and after using it, and wash your hands before eating and after using the bathroom.

What should I do about homeless people living near my residence or place of business?

- If a person experiencing homelessness is causing a disturbance or problem near your residence or business, please call your local law enforcement for assistance.
- If you want to help and provide resources to someone experiencing homelessness, then please call 2-1-1 to find out the nearest shelter or community organization that can provide them with assistance.

What should I do if I observe (what I believe to be) human feces in a public area?

- Contact the Code Enforcement program for your city to report this activity.
- Phone number for City of San Diego, Code Enforcement Division is 619-236-5500.

I am worried about exposure to Hepatitis A (I live downtown, live near homeless people, etc). What should I do to prevent exposure to Hepatitis A?

- The best way to prevent the Hepatitis A infection is with the safe and effective Hepatitis A vaccine. Get two doses of the Hepatitis A virus vaccine, six months apart.
- Also, the vaccine may be given as a twin vaccine against both Hepatitis A and B, which is given as three shots over six months (at 0, 1, and 6 months).
- Don't share food, drinks, or smokes with other people.
- Wash hands after using public bathrooms, and before preparing or eating food.



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- In this situation your risk is low; if you think you have been exposed vaccination and good hand hygiene are the best tools to protect yourself.

Are hand sanitizers effective against Hepatitis A? How do hand sanitizers compared with hand washing?

- Washing hands with soap and water is recommended when possible as it is more effective than hand sanitizers.
- Most alcohol-based hand sanitizers are effective against bacteria, but they don't do so well against viruses like the hepatitis viruses, mainly Hepatitis A, or norovirus. A non-alcohol based hand sanitizer is most effective against these viruses.

How should I disinfect my home or business for Hepatitis A?

- Maintain routine and consistent cleaning of bathrooms for employees, public, and personal use. Using a chlorine-based disinfectant (bleach) with a ratio of 1 and 2/3 cup of bleach to one gallon of water (5000 ppm). Mix and use the chlorine solution promptly. Allow 1 minute of contact time. Due to the high bleach concentration of this mixture, rinse surfaces with water after 1 minute of contact time and wear gloves while cleaning. Use for stainless steel, food/mouth contact items, tile floors, nonporous surfaces, counters, sinks and toilets. The County Department of Environmental Health has developed [disinfection guidelines](#), which can be found here on the [County Hepatitis A webpage](#) (also available in other languages).

How can I or my organization assist with response to this outbreak?

- Please contact Public Health Services Administration at 619-542-4170.