



Health Alert Network

Tri-County Health Department

Serving Adams, Arapahoe and Douglas Counties

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John M. Douglas, Jr., M.D. Executive Director

The pages that follow contain information critical to protecting the health of your patients and the citizens of Colorado.

HAN UPDATE

Number of pages including cover: 4

Subject: **Update - Colorado hepatitis A outbreak update - June 26, 2019**

Message ID: 6/26/2019 5:45:00 PM

Recipients: HAN Community Members.

From: TRI-COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Adams, Arapahoe and Douglas County, Colorado

Recipient Instructions: **Tri-County Health Department is forwarding you the attached HAN. You may have already received this broadcast if you are on the CDPHE distribution list, however, we wanted to ensure you did not miss this important information. No response is required. This information is for the public health and health care community. Do not post this document on a public web or social media site.**

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You have received this message based upon the information contained within our Health Alert Network Notification System. If you have a different or additional e-mail or fax address that you would like us to use, or if you have additional questions, call 720-200-1477.

Categories of Health Alert Network Messages:

Health Alert: Conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention.

Health Advisory: Provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action.

Health Update: Provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; unlikely to require immediate action.

Info Service/Public Health Brief: Provides general information that is not necessarily considered to be of an emergent nature.

HAN Recipients:

Due to changes to the Health Alert Network system at the Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment Office of Emergency Preparedness and Response (CDPHE), Tri-County Health Department will no longer be able to post all sent HAN messages to our website. CDPHE has begun adding to their HAN messages that these messages are only for public health and health care community members and are asking for us not to post HAN documents on public websites or social media sites. TCHD will continue to post any HAN messages from CDPHE as they allow, and will continue posting our own Quarterly Infectious Disease Tidbit newsletters and other HAN messages that Tri-County Health Department develops internally. If you are unable to open the PDF email attachment or do not receive all faxed pages of a HAN message, please contact Julie Ross at jross@tchd.org or 720-200-1477 in order to receive another transmission of the message.



HEALTH ALERT NETWORK BROADCAST

MESSAGE ID: 06262019 15:15

FROM: CO-CDPHE

SUBJECT: HAN Update: Colorado hepatitis A outbreak update

RECIPIENTS: Local Public Health Agencies / IPs / Clinical Labs / EDs / ID Physicians

RECIPIENT INSTRUCTIONS: Local Public Health Agencies - forward to healthcare providers and share with the following organizations in your jurisdiction: city/county jails, city/county law enforcement, organizations that work with people experiencing homelessness and/or substance use issues. This information is for the public health and health care community. Do not post this document on a public web or social media site

HEALTH ADVISORY UPDATE | Colorado hepatitis A outbreak update | June 26, 2019

Health care providers: Please distribute widely in your office

This information is for the public health and health care community. Do not post this document on a public web or social media site.

Key points

- **Outbreak update:** From Oct. 24, 2018, through June 26, 2019, 81 outbreak-associated cases of hepatitis A have been reported in Colorado. 66 cases in El Paso County and 11 cases in Fremont County have occurred in people experiencing homelessness and/or substance use issues; two cases diagnosed in Pueblo County and one in Douglas County were exposed outside of those counties. On June 22, 2019 a case was diagnosed and reported in Denver. This case was likely exposed elsewhere, but spent time in Denver during their infectious period.
- **Vaccination:** Hepatitis A is a vaccine-preventable disease. The recently reported outbreak-related case in Denver highlights the risk of the outbreak spreading to other areas of Colorado. Health care providers statewide are encouraged to vaccinate high-risk populations including people experiencing homelessness, people with substance use issues (especially those using injection and non-injection drugs), and people who are incarcerated in city/county jails. The hepatitis A vaccine series consists of two doses, 6-12 months apart; however, a single dose can provide up to 95% protection.
- **Disease reporting:** Promptly report suspected cases (such as patients with outbreak risk factors presenting with gastrointestinal symptoms, abdominal pain, jaundice, and dark urine) to public health so a timely investigation can occur, especially if there are concerns that the patient may be hard to locate after hospital discharge (i.e., the patient is experiencing homelessness). Report cases to a local public health agency or CDPHE (303-692-2700 or after hours 303-370-9395).

Background information

Among the 81 outbreak-associated hepatitis A cases, illness onset dates range from October 16, 2018 through June 19, 2019. The age range of cases is 23 years to 72 years (median 37 years) and 56 (69%) cases are male. Fifty-one (65%) cases have been hospitalized, and no deaths have been reported. Fifty-five (69%) cases report experiencing homelessness, and 70 (81%) cases report substance use issues, including marijuana use and injection and non-injection use of methamphetamine and/or heroin. Twenty-four cases (31%) were incarcerated in a city or county jail during their exposure period, infectious period, or both. Local public health agencies across the state have been working with partners to offer vaccine to at-risk populations.

Hepatitis A information

For information about hepatitis A, please visit: <https://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/hav>

For information about the outbreak in Colorado, please visit: <https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/cdphe/hepa>

Recommendations / guidance

Promptly report suspected cases to public health so a timely investigation can occur, especially if there are concerns that the patient may be hard to locate after hospital discharge (i.e., the patient is experiencing homelessness). Report cases to a local public health agency or CDPHE (303-692-2700 or after hours 303-370-9395).

Health care providers statewide should provide hepatitis A vaccine to individuals at increased risk of infection who have not been vaccinated or do not know their vaccination status, especially people experiencing homelessness and/or substance use issues. People who are currently or recently incarcerated often have these risk factors and should be vaccinated as well. For additional information about recommended groups for vaccination visit:

<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/acip-recs/vacc-specific/hepa.html>

Vaccine information for providers

Three hepatitis A vaccines are licensed in the United States: Vaqta® (Merck), Havrix® (GSK), and Twinrix® (GSK).

Twinrix® is a combination hepatitis A and hepatitis B vaccine that consists of three doses. The single antigen hepatitis A vaccine series consists of two doses 6 to 12 months apart and is administered intramuscularly; the adult formulation, for people 19 years of age and older, is 1.0 mL. Pediatric formulation (0.5 mL) should be used for people 1 through 18 years of age. Hepatitis A vaccine is an inactivated vaccine. It is well-tolerated and has an excellent safety profile.

While two doses of the single antigen hepatitis A vaccine provide close to 100% protection, a single dose can provide up to 95% protection. Concerns around completing the two-dose series should not be a deterrent to initiating the vaccine series in people with outbreak risk factors. Hepatitis A vaccine may be given to people who are immunocompromised. Evidence suggests vaccination should provide immunity for at least 25 years; pre- and post-vaccination serologic testing is not recommended.

If your patient is unsure of their vaccination status, consider checking the Colorado Immunization Information System (CIIS). If your practice does not currently administer hepatitis A vaccine but is interested in ordering it, please contact Merck & Co, Inc., GlaxoSmithKline, or your regular vaccine supplier.

If you are a Vaccines For Children (VFC) provider, hepatitis A vaccine is available and routinely recommended for children 12-24 months of age, with catch-up vaccine for children 2 years through 18 years who are VFC eligible.

For more information

- To report a suspected case, contact your local public health agency or CDPHE at 303-692-2700 (after hours/weekends, 303-370-9395).
- Information about the Colorado Immunization Information System: <https://www.colorado.gov/cdphe/ciis-users>
- Information about hepatitis A or immunization recommendations for hepatitis A:
 - <https://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/hav>
 - <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/acip-recs/vacc-specific/hepa.html>
 - http://www.immunize.org/vis/vis_hepatitis_a.asp

