



Health Alert Network

Tri-County Health Department

Serving Adams, Arapahoe and Douglas Counties

Phone 303/220-9200 • Fax 303/741-4173 • www.tchd.org

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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: 3

Subject: **Update - Colorado hepatitis A outbreak update - Dec. 4, 2019**

Message ID: 12/4/2019 9:30:00 AM

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.

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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.

**You may download a copy of this HAN from the TCHD website at
<http://www.tchd.org/259/Health-Alert-Network>**



HEALTH ALERT NETWORK BROADCAST

MESSAGE ID: 12042019 15:30

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.

HEALTH UPDATE | Colorado hepatitis A outbreak update | Dec. 4, 2019

Health care providers: Please distribute widely in your office

Key points

- Outbreak update: From Oct. 24, 2018, through Dec. 4, 2019, 299 outbreak-associated cases of hepatitis A have been reported in Colorado.
 - The primary risk factors since the beginning of the outbreak were homelessness, substance use, and incarceration. Recently, cases have been reported among men who have sexual contact with men.
 - To better characterize the burden of illness due to the outbreak, CDPHE has updated the outbreak case definition. This update to the outbreak case definition added 27 cases reported since Oct. 1, 2018 who did not report risk factors of homelessness, substance use, or incarceration, and were not previously counted as outbreak cases. These cases were added to the outbreak report published on December 4, 2019. The new outbreak case definition includes all confirmed cases of hepatitis A who do not have international travel to a country with endemic hepatitis A, and are not part of a known, point source outbreak, such as a contaminated food product.
 - Several counties on the western slope have reported cases in October and November 2019 (Eagle - 1 case, Montezuma - 1 case, and Routt - 2 cases).
- Vaccination: Hepatitis A is a vaccine-preventable disease. Health care providers statewide are encouraged to vaccinate high-risk populations including people experiencing homelessness, people with substance use issues, people who are currently or were recently incarcerated in city/county jails, and men who have sexual contact with men. The hepatitis A vaccine series consists of two doses given 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).

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).
- Outbreak case counts are updated every Wednesday and posted at: <https://www.colorado.gov/cdphe/hepa> (click on "Colorado Hepatitis A Outbreak Report")
- Information about hepatitis A and 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

