



PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY UPDATE  
**Hepatitis A Outbreak**

November 29, 2018

Columbus Public Health &  
Franklin County Public Health

With 109 confirmed hepatitis A cases reported in Columbus and Franklin County between January and November 2018, Columbus Public Health and Franklin County Public Health continue investigation of and response to the largest hepatitis A outbreak in our community since 1999. 73 of 109 cases are linked to the Ohio statewide hepatitis A outbreak among people with history of homelessness, incarceration, injection and non-injection drug use, as well as men who have sex with men.

<https://odh.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/odh/know-our-programs/outbreak-response-bioterrorism-investigation-team/news/newsevent1/> & <https://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/outbreaks/2017March-HepatitisA.htm>

Public health intervention to control the outbreak and prevent further illness is focused on prophylaxis of close contacts with vaccine or immunoglobulin, as well as vaccination of those at high risk of hepatitis A. Between July and November 2018, 1,749 hepatitis A vaccines have been administered to people at high risk in our community.

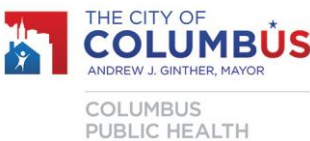
Healthcare providers are vital partners in response to the hepatitis A outbreak.

<https://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/hav/havfaq.htm>

Please continue to offer hepatitis A vaccine to patients at high risk with a focus on people with history of homelessness, incarceration, injection and non-injection drug use, as well as men who have sex with men.

Also, consider hepatitis A in the differential diagnosis of patients with jaundice and elevated serum transaminase and order hepatitis A IgM.

Contact Franklin County & Columbus Infectious Disease Reporting System (IDRS) at 614-525-8888 or <http://idrsinfo.org> to report hepatitis A cases to public health.



**Hepatitis A Health Alert Network**

<https://emergency.cdc.gov/han/han00412.asp>

**Infectious Disease Reporting System**

<http://idrsinfo.org>