



COUNTY OF YOLO

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Hepatitis A Outbreak in California

(Woodland, CA) – Despite current outbreaks of hepatitis A virus in some California counties (San Diego, Los Angeles and Santa Cruz counties) the Yolo County Health & Human Services Agency reports there has been no local transmission of cases with the same strain of hepatitis A virus within Yolo or Sacramento counties this year. Yolo County Public Health is actively engaged with the California Department of Public Health and other county agencies in developing a preventive action plan to protect the public. Since California’s active outbreaks are being seen in persons who are homeless and/or use illicit drugs, local prevention planning is focused on these high risk populations.

“Yolo County Public Health has been working diligently and taking actions to prevent an outbreak,” said Yolo County Deputy Health Officer Mary Ann Limbos, MD. “Our priorities are to keep all our residents both safe and well informed of the current situation in California. Vaccination is the best protection against Hepatitis A. With this in mind, we are working closely with our clinicians and clinics to do additional screening of high risk individuals and to offer vaccine to persons who are homeless, active drug users and those who provide services and support to such individuals.”

A person can get hepatitis A if they come into contact with an infected person’s feces through contaminated food or objects. The hepatitis A virus can spread when a person does not properly wash their hands after going to the bathroom or changing diapers. Other modes of transmission include certain sexual practices, sharing equipment related to illicit drug use and consumption of food or water contaminated with the virus. People who are homeless are at higher risk because they face challenges to maintaining good hygiene.

Symptoms of hepatitis A include jaundice (yellowing of the skin and eyes), fever, fatigue, loss of appetite, nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain, dark urine and light-colored stools. Symptoms usually appear over a number of days and last less than two months. However, some people can be ill for several months. Hepatitis A can sometimes cause liver failure and even death.

To prevent the spread of hepatitis A virus: get a hepatitis A vaccination; wash hands frequently, especially after using the bathroom or changing diapers, and before handling food; do not have sex with someone who has Hepatitis A infection; use own towels, toothbrushes and eating utensils; and do not share food, drinks or smokes with other people. Hepatitis A vaccine is available at doctors’ offices, clinics and some retail pharmacies.

For more information about Hepatitis A virus, visit:

www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/Immunization/Hepatitis-A.aspx

www.yolocounty.org/health-human-services/community-health/communicable-disease-investigation-and-control

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