



# Health Officer Update

Yolo County Health and Human Services Agency  
Community Health Branch

Fall 2017

## Hepatitis A Outbreak

### What to Know:

As of Friday, October 13, 2017, a state of emergency has been declared concerning the Hepatitis A Outbreak, which has 600 confirmed cases, 395 hospitalizations, and 19 deaths statewide.

The outbreak has been focused primarily with the homeless and illicit drug user population, most especially in San Diego County.

### What to Do:

- Follow the CDPH website for updates with regards to the hepatitis A outbreak ([CDPH website](#)).
- Follow health officer recommendations for all clinicians per Hepatitis A Advisory Health Alert ([Yolo County Health Alert Advisory](#)), especially immunizing all high-risk populations and occupations.
- Follow Yolo County's response to the outbreak, which includes resources and infographics for clinicians and the public – translated into Russian and Spanish: ([Yolo County Hepatitis A Advisory Website](#)).
- Report laboratory confirmed (IgM positive only) and/or outbreak related cases of Hepatitis A to Yolo County Public Health via Confidential Morbidity Report fax: (530)-669-1549.
- Consider hepatitis A disease among patients presenting with compatible symptoms, especially those that are considered high-risk.

### Who to Share:

All providers and staff in hospital or clinics.

## 2017-2018 Flu Season Update:

### What to Know:

Yolo County's Community Health Branch has issued a [health alert](#) concerning workers who have direct patient contact or work in patient care areas practicing in Yolo County. The County Health Officer issued a masking order for the 2017-2018 Flu Season from November 1, 2017-March 31, 2018. The masking order duration may change based on the discretion of the Health Officer.

As of September 22, 2017, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) issued their recommendations for the 2017-2018 flu season ([CDC/ACIP Guidance](#)).

### What to Do:

- Review the summary of changes issued by the CDC and ACIP with regards to this year's flu season ([ACIP Summary on Prevention and Control of Seasonal Influenza](#)).
- All health care workers (or workers at health care facilities) must receive the annual influenza vaccination or masking of unimmunized health care workers is mandatory per the [Yolo County Health Officer's order](#).
- Allow time for health care providers and workers to receive their annual flu shot.
- Recommend flu immunizations for any patients 6 months or older who do not have contraindications.
  - [Contraindication List](#).
  - [Patient Fact Sheet for Pregnant Women](#).

### Who to Share:

All providers and staff in hospital or clinics.

### Community Health Branch

#### Branch Director:

Mimi Hall, MPH

#### Health Officer:

Ron Chapman, MD, MPH

#### Report a Disease:

##### Phone:

(530) 666-8645

##### After Hours:

(530) 321-3620

#### Confidential CMR Fax:

(530) 669-1549

#### Business Hours:

Monday-Friday 8AM-5PM

## Zika Virus CDC Update:

### What to Know:

New interim guidance have been issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) with regards to caring for pregnant women with possible Zika Virus Exposure ([MMWR Interim guidance for pregnant women](#)) and interim guidance regarding diagnosis, evaluation, and management of Infants with Possible Congenital Zika Virus Infection ([MMWR Interim guidance for infants](#)).

The CDC will be deactivating their emergency response as of September 29, 2017, however, CDPH will continue to be at a heightened state of response. **CDPH guidelines also advise physicians to recommend testing of pregnant women whether symptomatic or not, if they traveled, or if their partner traveled to a high-risk country.** REMINDER: CDPH's Viral and Rickettsial Disease Laboratory will only accept electronic lab request submissions.

### What to Do:

- Review the updated [Yolo County Zika Testing Procedures as of 7/17/2017](#).
- Download and fill out the PDF form: [General Human Specimen Submittal Form](#). (Works best on Internet Explorer. If online link does not work, download to computer).
- Please remember that Zika Laboratory testing follows strict guidelines for acceptable specimens. Review the [Quicksheet issued by the CDPH VRDL](#).
- Utilize the CDPH Screening Algorithm for Zika ([Screening Algorithm resource](#)).
- **Fax the Confidential Morbidity Report (CMR) and the specimen submittal form to Yolo County Infectious Disease at 530-669-1549.**
- **Utilize the Yolo County Zika Warmline at (530) 666-8614 to request Zika testing approval or questions regarding testing and Zika follow-up.**

### Who to Share:

OB/GYNs, pediatric providers, nurses, midwives, family medicine doctors in hospitals or clinics, and laboratories.

## Cannabis/Marijuana Regulations

### What to Know:

As of April 2017, cannabis (marijuana) is legal for recreational use in the State of California for anyone 21 years or older. Regulations to govern the sale of cannabis are expected to be in place by January 1, 2018. Medicinal marijuana use is valid for anyone 18 years or older, per physician's recommendation or a valid county-issued medicinal cannabis identification card.

### What to Do:

- Utilize the California Department of Public Health's (CDPH's) ["Let's Talk Cannabis" website](#) as a patient resource to encourage safe use and informed choices when using cannabis.
- Ask patients about cannabis use and encourage safe and responsible use of cannabis.
  - [CDPH: Safe Use Handout Fact Sheet](#).

- If prescribing medicinal cannabis, provide patients with the following form:
  - [CDPH: Medicinal Cannabis Fact Sheet](#)
- Follow CDPH recommendations with regards to cannabis use ([Provider Fact Sheet](#))
  - American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) and CDPH recommends women who are pregnant or contemplating pregnancy to discontinue recreational cannabis use, and use alternative treatments for pregnant patients using medicinal cannabis.
  - American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) and CDPH recommend abstaining from using cannabis while breastfeeding.
  - Proactively screen children and youth for cannabis use

### Who to Share:

Primary care providers, Family Medicine, ED physicians, Pediatricians, Midwives, and OB/GYN.

## Prevention of Infant Pertussis

### What to Know:

CDPH is reporting 495 cases in 2017 (as of May 11, 2017). In 2016, CDPH reported 1,830 cases with 2 deaths in infants younger than 3 months. CDPH expects the next epidemic peak to occur in 2017-19. CDPH urges prenatal care providers to observe the ACIP recommendations for Tdap vaccinations (at 27-36 weeks gestation of every pregnancy to protect infants too young to be vaccinated). All providers dealing with the care of mother and the baby need to be involved in the prenatal prevention plan.

[CDPH Director's Letter for Preventing Infant Pertussis.](#)

### What to Do:

- All prenatal care providers are urged to develop a strong immunization plan for Tdap, especially at 27-36 weeks of gestation.
- Utilize prenatal toolkits to reinforce the importance of immunization ([San Francisco Dept. of Public Health Toolkit](#)).
- When doing referrals for immunization, ensure the patients have access to receive the vaccine.
- Utilize the California Immunization Registry to schedule and record doses appropriately.

### Who to Share:

OB/GYN, nurses, midwives, family and primary care physicians.