



SAN BENITO COUNTY

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY

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PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES

Healthy People in Healthy Communities

PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY

Date: 5 September 2017

To: All First Responders

From: Gail Newel, MD, MPH, San Benito County Public Health Officer

Subject: Hepatitis A Vaccinations

Background:

San Diego and Santa Cruz Counties are currently experiencing outbreaks of hepatitis A infection, mostly among homeless persons and/or users of injection or non-injection illicit drugs. Case numbers in both of those counties continue to rise, and additional cases due to the same strain of virus have been identified in other California jurisdictions as well as in Arizona and Utah. In San Diego, 15 deaths have occurred due to this hepatitis A outbreak, and the vast majority of infected individuals have required hospitalization.

Although we have not yet identified a case of hepatitis A in San Benito County in 2017, we know that we are at risk. The at-risk populations are transient, and Santa Cruz County is a close neighbor. For this reason, San Benito County Public Health Services is taking a proactive stance to prevent an outbreak situation in our local jurisdiction.

Recommendation for preventive vaccination against hepatitis A virus (HAV):

Most of the hepatitis A cases share one or more of the following characteristics: illicit drug use (injection and non-injection), homelessness, and/or dense living conditions. However, there have been cases in people whose only risk factor is contact with the aforementioned population. Some occupational groups at risk are medical staff, custodial services, first responders, and other occupations that have close contact with the major risk group. These occupational groups are advised to get vaccinated against hepatitis A. Public Health Services is working with our community partners to ensure HAV vaccination of at-risk populations and those who serve them.

The San Benito County Health Officer is recommending that all first responders be offered Hepatitis A vaccination.

Under the Affordable Care Act, HAV vaccines are covered as preventive care without a deductible or co-pay charge:

First responders should be encouraged to seek HAV vaccination with their personal physician or pharmacy. The Health Officer's recommendations align with the Advisory Committee on

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES
439 Fourth Street
Hollister, CA 95023
831-637-5367

MEDICAL THERAPY UNIT
761 South Street
Hollister, CA 95023
831-637-1989

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351 Tres Pinos Road, Suite C-1
Hollister, CA 95023
831-636-4035

HEALTH EDUCATION PROGRAMS
439 Fourth Street
Hollister, CA 95023
831-637-5367

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Hepatitis A Vaccinations

Immunization Practices (ACIP) as well as the California Department of Public Health's recent All Facilities Health Notification.

For more information:

<https://www.hhs.gov/hepatitis/policies-and-guidelines/affordable-care-act/index.html>

<https://archive.cdph.ca.gov/certlic/facilities/Documents/LNC-AFL-17-13.pdf>

Should Hepatitis A exposure occur in a non-vaccinated individual:

Should a first responder who is not immune to Hepatitis A come in close contact with a confirmed or suspected HAV case, post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) should be given. The first responder should seek care with their personal physician. Susceptible people exposed to HAV should receive a dose of single-antigen HAV vaccine or intramuscular (IM) immune globulin (IG) (0.02 mL/kg), or both, as soon as possible within 2 weeks of exposure.

Detailed information on PEP may be found on the CDPH Hepatitis A Post-exposure Prophylaxis Guidance Quicksheet (updated August 2016):

https://archive.cdph.ca.gov/programs/immunize/Documents/CDPH_HAV%20PEP%20Clinical%20Guidance.pdf

For more information:

<https://archive.cdph.ca.gov/programs/immunize/Documents/CDPHHAVQuicksheet.pdf>

<https://archive.cdph.ca.gov/HealthInfo/discond/Documents/FoodborneHepatitisAFactSheet.pdf>

If you have questions or information regarding possible cases please call Public Health Services at (831) 637-5367.