

Exercise Scenario – Hepatitis A Community Outbreak

ICS FOR LOCAL PUBLIC HEALTH TRAINING TOOL

Local public health officials and the Minnesota Department of Health are seeing an elevated number of hepatitis A cases in your region.

No common sources of food, beverages, or drugs have been identified as a potential source of infection. Transmission appears to be through direct person-to-person spread and illicit drug use. Those with history of injection and non-injection drug use, homelessness or transient housing, and incarceration (county jail) are thought to be at greater risk in this outbreak setting. Notably, this outbreak has had a high hospitalization rate.

MDH along with the MDH district epidemiologist have conducted the case investigations on this hepatitis A outbreak and have discovered the following: Six cases have been confirmed. Primary cases are adult males. Three of the six cases report illicit drug use. Four of the six cases report recent incarceration in your local jail facility (as recently as 5 days prior to today).

Meetings with MDH and local public health officials have resulted in MDH recommending local public health officials to conduct the following activities in response to the growing outbreak:

- Partner with healthcare facilities to increase public awareness efforts and/or to conduct vaccination clinics,
- Conduct public messaging and education campaign on Hepatitis A prevention, and
- Conduct a vaccination clinic(s) for high-risk populations, including county jails and homeless shelters.

"Without a single source associated with these cases, the importance of vaccination and proper hygiene is vital to ensuring we stop the person-to-person spread of hepatitis A." - MDH spokesperson

To prevent further spread, MDH is recommending healthcare providers and local health departments promote hepatitis A vaccination to the highest risk individuals, including:

- Persons with a history of substance use
- Persons currently homeless or in transient living
- Persons incarcerated in correctional facilities
- Persons with underlying liver disease
- Persons wishing to be immune to hepatitis A

HEPATITIS A COMMUNITY OUTBREAK EXERCISE

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