

Hepatitis A outbreak update

New cases of hepatitis A continue to emerge in Minnesota with 58 cases reported across 16 counties as of Dec. 13, 2019. Most (76%) of these cases have been hospitalized. All of the cases have been in adults.

Vaccination is the best way to prevent hepatitis A. Hepatitis A vaccine has been recommended for children since 2006, but many adults have not been vaccinated for hepatitis A. Anyone who wants to be protected can get the hepatitis A vaccine, but vaccination is especially important for those at high risk in this outbreak, including:

- People who use injection and non-injection drugs.
- People experiencing homelessness or unstable housing.
- People who are currently or were recently incarcerated.

You can find more information and resources on the Hepatitis A Outbreak Prevention and Response (www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/hepatitis/a/response.html) website.

Pneumococcal recommendation changes for seniors

The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) no longer recommends routine 13-valent pneumococcal conjugate (PCV13) vaccination for persons age 65 years and older. Instead, PCV13 may be considered for certain immunocompetent individuals age 65 years and older. Providers should use shared clinical decision-making to determine which persons might benefit from PCV13 vaccination. Shared clinical decision-making involves discussion with the patient and consideration whether a person's risk of pneumococcal disease might be increased. Considerations when making a shared clinical decision to give PCV13 include:

- Persons residing in nursing homes or long-term care facilities.
- Persons living in or traveling to areas in which childhood PCV13 vaccination rates are low.
- Persons with chronic medical conditions or more than one chronic medical condition.

Everyone age 65 years and older should continue to receive the 23-valent polysaccharide vaccine (PPSV23). When there is a decision to give PCV13, persons should receive PCV13 before PPSV23. No changes were made to the pneumococcal recommendations for persons age 19 through 64 years.

You can find the full recommendations in the Nov. 22, 2019, issue of the Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR) (www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/68/wr/mm6846a5.htm?s_cid=mm6846a5_w).

Additional influenza vaccine available to order for current season

Influenza vaccine from the Minnesota Vaccines for Children (MnVFC) program is still available to order for this season (2019-20). To order additional pediatric MnVFC influenza vaccine doses, go to the Ordering MDH Vaccine (www.health.state.mn.us/people/immunize/hcp/mnvfc/vaxorder.html) website and complete the online order form.

MIIC tip: Use the right browser

MIIC works best in Internet Explorer versions 10 or earlier. You can make a newer version of Internet Explorer work with MIIC by adding MIIC to your Compatibility View. Find more information in the Compatibility View Mode Procedure user guide on MIIC User Guidance and Training Resources (www.health.state.mn.us/people/immunize/miic/train/intro.html). MIIC is not fully compatible with other browsers like Microsoft Edge, Firefox, Safari, or Google Chrome.

HPV vaccine: Power to prevent cancer

Cervical cancer was once the leading cause of cancer deaths among women in the United States. Thanks to cervical cancer screening and the HPV vaccine, cervical cancer is now one of the most preventable cancers. However, it is still a problem. In 2016, there were almost 13,000 new cases of cervical cancer reported in the United States, and 161 of those cases were Minnesota women.

HPV vaccination could prevent more than 90% of cervical cancers and precancers. The problem is only about half of Minnesota adolescents are getting this vaccine. We know from studies that a strong recommendation from a health care provider significantly increases uptake for HPV vaccination.

As Cervical Health Awareness Month approaches in January, we wanted to remind providers to strongly recommend HPV vaccine the same way you do Tdap and meningococcal vaccines. Here's what you can do.

- Announce to the parent or guardian that their 11 or 12 year old is due for three vaccines that prevent pertussis (whooping cough), HPV-related cancers and meningitis.
- Do not assume parents will be vaccine hesitant. If the parent asks questions or has concerns, listen, respond and reiterate your strong recommendation for HPV vaccination.
- Repeat your recommendation at subsequent visits if the family initially refuses as this signals you feel strongly about on-time HPV vaccination to prevent future cancers.

For more information and resources, visit our website For Health Care Providers Serving Adolescents (www.wevaxteens.com).

Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS)

Health care providers are required to report any and all events that require medical attention after vaccination to the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS) (<https://vaers.hhs.gov/index>) regardless of whether it is related to vaccination.

MDH on social media

You can now find MDH on five social media channels! Share immunization and other health information with people in your community by connecting with MDH on:

- Facebook (www.facebook.com/mnhealth)
- Twitter (www.twitter.com/mnhealth)
- Instagram (www.instagram.com/mnhealth/)
- LinkedIn (www.linkedin.com/company/mnhealth)
- YouTube (www.youtube.com/user/MNDeptofHealth)