

Hepatitis A outbreak in Minnesota continues

New cases of hepatitis A continue to emerge in Minnesota with a total of 41 cases reported across 16 counties as of Oct. 18, 2019. Of these cases, 29 (71%) have been hospitalized. All of the cases have been adults. Hepatitis A vaccine has been recommended for children since 2006, but many adults have not been vaccinated for hepatitis A. Vaccination is the best way to prevent hepatitis A. 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.

Know your organization's hepatitis A vaccination rates

Use the MIIC Adolescent Custom Assessment Report to get the number and percent of people associated with your organization who have received 2 valid doses of hepatitis A vaccine. The custom adolescent report allows you to look at everyone within an age range that you specify, so you can use it to look at hepatitis A vaccination status for your adult population. To learn more, look at the "custom report" section of the *User Guide: Adolescent Immunization Assessment Reports* document found on MIIC User Guidance and Training Resources (www.health.state.mn.us/people/immunize/miic/train/assess.html).

Promote and improve patient safety through vaccination and antibiotic stewardship

Flu vaccination is especially important for people who work in health care settings because they are at increased risk for getting the flu and passing it on to patients—many of whom are vulnerable to serious complications from the illness. Hospitals and nursing homes in Minnesota are invited to register for FluSafe, a program that recognizes facilities for high flu vaccination rates among their health care personnel. Registration is open through Nov. 1, 2019. To get more information and see a list of 2018-19 facilities, go to the FluSafe (www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/flu/hcp/vaccine/flusafe.html) website.

Along with improving vaccination rates to prevent infections, we know many facilities are doing other work to show their commitment to antibiotic stewardship. The Minnesota Antibiotic Stewardship Honor Roll recognizes acute care hospitals, critical access hospitals, and long-term care facilities for antibiotic stewardship commitment, action, and collaboration. To apply for the Honor Roll or view the current list of honorees, visit the Minnesota Antibiotic Stewardship Honor Roll (www.health.state.mn.us/communities/onehealth/bx/honor/) website.

Give a VIS before vaccinating: It's the law

Federal law requires anyone who vaccinates to give all patients, or their parents or legal guardians, the appropriate VIS before giving vaccines. Get more information at Facts About VISs (www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/vis/about/facts-vis.html).

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Current VISs, October 2019 <i>(Changes from last quarter are in bold italics.)</i>	
Chickenpox - interim	8/15/19
Cholera	7/6/17
DTaP/DT/DTP - interim	8/24/18
Hepatitis A	7/20/16
Hepatitis B - interim	8/15/19
Hib	4/2/15
HPV Gardasil-9	12/2/16
Influenza - TIV - interim	8/15/19
Influenza - LAIV - interim	8/15/19
Japanese encephalitis	8/15/19
Meningococcal (ACWY) - interim	8/15/19
Serogroup B Meningococcal (MenB) - interim	8/15/19
MMR - interim	8/15/19
MMRV - interim	8/15/19
Multi-vaccine	11/5/15
PCV13	11/5/15
PPSV23	4/24/15
Polio	7/20/16
Rabies	10/6/09
Rotavirus	2/23/18
Shingles/Zoster (live)	2/12/18
Shingles/Zoster (recombinant)	2/12/18
Td	4/11/17
Tdap	2/24/15
Typhoid	5/29/12
Yellow Fever	3/30/11

Recommend flu vaccine to patients with diabetes

Among adults hospitalized due to flu, 43% had a metabolic disorder like diabetes. Even though diabetes can be well-controlled, people with this common condition are more likely to be hospitalized because their immune system is less able to fight infections and blood sugars can be impacted by flu illness. This makes flu vaccination especially important for people with diabetes. Vaccination has been associated with reduced hospitalizations among people with diabetes by 79%.

Most adults that are hospitalized with flu have underlying medical conditions. Diabetes is just one example. Make sure you are recommending flu vaccination to all patients with chronic medical conditions. Flu vaccination has been shown to reduce the risk of getting sick with flu as well as reduce the risk of having a serious flu outcome like a stay in the hospital or even being admitted to the intensive care unit.