



PARTNER UPDATE

The difference is how we treat you.

WORK PARTNERS

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH SPECIALISTS

www.WorkPartnersOHS.com

September 2017

Hepatitis A

Randall Browning, MD

Chief Medical Officer

WorkPartners Occupational Health Specialists

Hepatitis A is a highly contagious liver infection caused by the hepatitis A virus. The virus is one of several types of hepatitis viruses that cause inflammation and affect your liver's ability to function.

You're most likely to contract hepatitis A from contaminated food or water or from close contact with someone who's infected. Mild cases of hepatitis A don't require treatment, and most people who are infected recover completely with no permanent liver damage.

Practicing good hygiene, including washing hands frequently, is one of the best ways to protect against hepatitis A. Vaccines are available for people most at risk. A blood test can be done to determine if you have immunity to hepatitis A virus due to recent or past infection.

The hepatitis A vaccine is given as two shots, six months apart. The hepatitis A vaccine also comes in a combination form, containing both hepatitis A and B vaccine, that can be given to persons 18 years or older. This form is given as three shots, over a period of six months or as three shots over one month and a booster shot at 12 months.

Since early 2017, the County of San Diego Health and Human Services Agency has been investigating a local Hepatitis A outbreak. The outbreak investigation is ongoing. To date, no common source of food, beverage, or other cause has been identified; as a result, the source of the outbreak remains undetermined. On September 1, 2017, the San Diego Public Health Officer declared a local public health emergency due to the ongoing hepatitis A virus outbreak. As of September 19, 2017, there have been 444 cases and 16 deaths associated with the 2017 San Diego County hepatitis A outbreak.

Hepatitis A is preventable with a vaccine. San Diego County public health officials recommend the vaccine for the following individuals:

- Travelers to countries with high or medium rates of hepatitis A.
- Men who have sex with men.
- Users of injection and non-injection illegal drugs.
- Individuals with chronic liver disease, such as cirrhosis, hepatitis B, or hepatitis C.

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- Individuals who are homeless.
- Persons with clotting factor disorders.
- Individuals who work with homeless and/or users of illegal drugs.
- Food handlers
- Anyone who is concerned about hepatitis A virus exposure and wants to be immune.

If interested in making hepatitis A vaccine available to employees, contact WorkPartners at 760-571-5910.

WorkPartners Occupational Health Specialists

Located in North San Diego County, WorkPartners clinics are full service Occupational Health clinics dedicated to supporting the health and wellness of local employees. Learn more at www.WorkPartnersOHS.com.

