



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
LANSING

RICK SNYDER  
GOVERNOR

NICK LYON  
DIRECTOR

February 9, 2018

Dear FQHC Directors,

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) and local public health officials continue to investigate and respond to an ongoing outbreak of hepatitis A. The majority of cases continue to occur in Southeast Michigan, but the outbreak has spread to jurisdictions across the state. As part of the ongoing response effort, public health officials are working with multiple partners to increase hepatitis A vaccination among high-risk individuals. As you know, hepatitis A vaccine is the most effective protection, and FQHCs play a key role in assisting with this vaccination effort.

This outbreak is unlike any hepatitis A outbreak we have experienced in Michigan before, and we need your help to control it. From August 1, 2016 to January 31, 2018, there have been 727 cases of confirmed hepatitis A, including 24 deaths. Of these cases, over 80 percent have been hospitalized. The median age of cases is 41 years, and roughly two-thirds of cases are male. Nearly half of cases report substance abuse, and 27 percent are co-infected with hepatitis C. About 12 percent of cases are either homeless or in transient living conditions. The number of cases among men who have sex with men (MSM) has increased significantly, now accounting for 14 percent of male cases. Ongoing hepatitis A transmission is occurring from person-to-person contact rather than a common source. More information about the hepatitis A outbreak can be found at [www.michigan.gov/hepatitisaoutbreak](http://www.michigan.gov/hepatitisaoutbreak).

As a critical healthcare access point for underserved communities, FQHCs are in a key position to offer vaccination to high-risk adults aged 19 years and older because FQHCs are already eligible to administer publicly-funded hepatitis A vaccine through the Michigan Adult Vaccine Program (MI-AVP). Individuals who are eligible for MI-AVP hepatitis A vaccine are either medically uninsured or under-insured and fall into any of the high-risk groups listed below.

- Persons who use injection and non-injection illicit drugs
- Men who have sex with men
- Persons who are homeless or in transient living conditions
- Persons who are or were recently incarcerated
- Persons with chronic liver disease, such as cirrhosis, hepatitis B, or hepatitis C

If you are not currently participating in the MI-AVP program, I encourage you to reach out to your local health department to enroll in the program. Criteria for administering the FQHC Directors hepatitis A vaccine have recently been updated to match the

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risk conditions of this outbreak. Please see the link below for more information about enrolling in the MI-AVP program.

[www.michigan.gov/documents/mdhhs/8\\_Michigan\\_Adult\\_Vaccine\\_Program\\_600425\\_7.pdf](http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mdhhs/8_Michigan_Adult_Vaccine_Program_600425_7.pdf)

Attached is a vaccine FAQ document for FQHCs as well as the most recent Outbreak Summary Document.

Thank you for your critical partnership as we work together to end this outbreak affecting some of Michigan's most vulnerable individuals and communities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Eden V. Wells".

Eden V. Wells, MD, MPH, FACPM  
Chief Medical Executive

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Attachments