

**MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES (MDHHS)
HEPATITIS A OUTBREAK
FESTIVAL OUTREACH GUIDANCE FOR LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENTS (LHD)**

This guidance document is presented to local health departments to provide recommendations for activities that can be undertaken related to festivals to mitigate the current hepatitis A outbreak. MDHHS does not expect LHDs to accomplish all the activities on this list. This list is prioritized into high, medium, and low risk festival events. LHDs are encouraged to concentrate their efforts first on high risk festival events. The risk categorization is related to the potential presence of high risk populations at a festival event.

HIGH RISK FESTIVAL EVENTS

- Contact festival organizers or strengthen previous relationships to provide historical information on the status of the MI hepatitis A outbreak and determine ability to collaborate for festival based activities.
- Ask festival organizers to provide educational material about the outbreak on their festival website, encouraging a link to www.michigan.gov/hepatitisAoutbreak
- If possible ask festival organizers to communicate directly with patrons of the event via electronic tickets, e-mail, or text messaging with information about hepatitis A.
- Conduct hepatitis A vaccination clinic(s) on or off site. Leverage resources available through the LHD including staff from programs such as immunization and communicable disease, etc. Consider utilizing Medical Reserve Corps, Michigan Volunteer Registry or the current MDHHS Visiting Nurse Association (VNA) contract.
- Ensure adequate handwashing stations available at the festival location and make every effort to ensure they are located in close proximity to the toileting areas. Discuss with organizers the ineffectiveness of alcohol hand sanitizers specific to inactivation of the hepatitis A virus.
- Staff an education booth, ensuring hepatitis A materials are available for distribution. Should a space be unavailable identify potential community health partners such as a hospital who might allow the LHD to share their booth space.
- Utilize billboards, yard signs, or electronic message signs to promote festival associated vaccine opportunities and overall hepatitis A awareness.
- Display handwashing information throughout the event and encourage frequent monitoring of soap, towels and water supplies by event staff.
- Work with environmental health sanitarians prior to onsite licensing inspections to assist with education and training specific to the hepatitis A outbreak, bring education materials for distribution.
- Establish a vaccine and vaccine clinic hotline to assist with questions. Ensure feedback is provided within 24 hours during business hours.
- Advertise via social media, press releases, or electronic text messages. Promote vaccine clinic(s) and hepatitis A information using local radio or transit advertising close to the festival(s). Take the opportunity to stress the partnership between the LHD and festival organizers.

MEDIUM RISK FESTIVAL EVENTS

- Contact festival organizers or strengthen previous relationships to provide historical information on the status of the MI hepatitis A outbreak and determine ability to collaborate for festival based activities.
- Ask festival organizers to provide educational material about the outbreak on their festival website, encouraging a link to www.michigan.gov/hepatitisAoutbreak
- If possible ask festival organizers to communicate directly with patrons of the event via electronic tickets, e-mail, or text messaging with information about hepatitis A.
- Conduct hepatitis A vaccination clinic(s) on or off site. Leverage resources available through the LHD including staff from programs such as immunization and communicable disease, etc. Consider utilizing Medical Reserve Corps, Michigan Volunteer Registry or the current MDHHS Visiting Nurse Association (VNA) contract.
- Ensure adequate handwashing stations available at the festival location and make every effort to ensure they are located in close proximity to the toileting areas. Discuss with organizers the ineffectiveness of alcohol hand sanitizers specific to inactivation of the hepatitis A virus.
- Staff an education booth, ensuring hepatitis A materials are available for distribution. Should a space be unavailable identify potential community health partners such as a hospital who might allow the LHD to share their booth space.
- Utilize billboards, yard signs, or electronic message signs to promote festival associated vaccine opportunities and overall hepatitis A awareness.
- Display handwashing information throughout the event and encourage frequent monitoring of soap, towels and water supplies by event staff.
- Work with environmental health sanitarians prior to onsite licensing inspections to assist with education and training specific to the hepatitis A outbreak, bring education materials for distribution.
- Advertise via social media, press releases, or electronic text messages. Promote vaccine clinic(s) and hepatitis A information using local radio or transit advertising close to the festival(s). Take the opportunity to stress the partnership between the LHD and festival organizers.

LOW RISK FESTIVAL EVENTS

- Contact festival organizers or strengthen previous relationships to provide historical information on the status of the MI hepatitis A outbreak and determine ability to collaborate for festival based activities.
- Work with festival organizers to establish billboards, yard signs, or electronic message signs to promote overall hepatitis A awareness and location for vaccinations if appropriate. These should be placed as close to venue or on venue transportation route.
- If possible ask festival organizers to communicate directly with patrons of the event via electronic tickets, e-mail, or text messaging with information about hepatitis A.
- Work with festival organizers to display handwashing information throughout the event and encourage frequent monitoring of soap, towels and water supplies by event staff.
- Work with environmental health sanitarians prior to onsite licensing inspections to assist with education and training specific to the hepatitis A outbreak, bring education materials for distribution.