



STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN RESOURCES  
Bureau for Public Health

Bill J. Crouch  
Cabinet Secretary

Office of Epidemiology & Prevention Services

Rahul Gupta, MD, MPH, MBA, FACP  
Commissioner  
State Health Officer

**DATE:** August 9, 2018  
**TO:** Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) Directors  
**FROM:** Shannon McBee, MPH, CHES  
Epidemiologist  
**RE:** Hepatitis A Vaccine Initiative for FQHCs

The West Virginia Bureau for Public Health and local public health officials continue to investigate and respond to an ongoing outbreak of hepatitis A virus. As of August 3, 2018, 791 confirmed cases have been reported in 22 West Virginia counties with 74% of cases occurring in Kanawha and Cabell counties. There have been 469 hospitalizations and two deaths. Injection and non-injection drug use has been reported in approximately 80% of cases. This outbreak has been challenging to public health officials because of the mobile nature of cases.

With hepatitis A vaccine being the most effective strategy to stop the spread of disease, public health officials are working with multiple partners to increase hepatitis A vaccination among high-risk individuals. FQHCs are in an important position to offer vaccination to high-risk individuals because they serve as a vital access point for healthcare in underserved communities. Your FQHC services a high-priority county in this outbreak, and we are soliciting your assistance to provide the hepatitis A vaccine to high-risk adults aged 19 years and older who are either medically uninsured or under-insured and fall into any of the high-risk groups. High-risk groups include:

- Persons who use injection or non-injection illicit drugs
- Men who have sex with men
- Persons who are homeless or in transient living situations
- Persons who have been incarcerated
- Persons with acute or chronic liver disease, including those with hepatitis B virus and/or hepatitis C virus
- Persons with ongoing exposure to a group listed above

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To join in vaccination efforts, FQHCs identified in high-priority counties, such as yours, may request up to 50 free vaccines to be offered to individuals who are age 19 and older, are uninsured or underinsured, and fall into least one risk group. If your facility does not need the full 50 vaccines, please request a lower amount. There is no limit to the number of requests you make, however, you can only request 50 doses at a time.

Enclosed you will find the Health Advisory #147 Update on the Multi-State Hepatitis A Outbreak, requisition form for vaccines, a screening tool, the vaccine information sheet, and links to additional resources related to the outbreak.

Thank you for your partnership as we all continue to work together to stop this outbreak which is having significant impact on the state of West Virginia.

If you have any questions or need additional clarification, please contact Shannon McBee at (304) 356-4019.

Enclosure(s)