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Livingston County Health Department Communicable Disease Update

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HEPATITIS A

Local and State public health officials continue to investigate a large hepatitis A outbreak in southeastern Michigan. As part of the ongoing investigation, public health officials have been working to make the public aware of the outbreak, associated risk factors, and the importance of handwashing and vaccination to prevent hepatitis A infection. However, recently there has been an increase in confirmed hepatitis A cases among men who have sex with men (MSM). As this is a population that you may routinely work with, we wanted to share the information with you and ask that you urge your clients to get vaccinated for hepatitis A.

Men who have sex with men are at a greater risk of acquiring hepatitis A virus infection. Hepatitis A vaccination is indicated for MSM per the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) guidelines. Despite this guidance, hepatitis A vaccination coverage among MSM in the United States remains low, estimated at 15-35%. There are currently multiple hepatitis A outbreaks among MSM both in the United States and Western European countries.

MDHHS urges all (healthcare) providers to promote hepatitis A vaccination of men who have sex with men. As there are indications that the outbreak could spread outside of the Southeast region of Michigan, hepatitis A vaccination of the MSM population should be a statewide effort. We need your continued partnership to proactively increase vaccination among the highest risk individuals including men who have sex with men.

Please report all suspected and confirmed HAV cases to LCHD as soon as possible, within 24 hours of identification. LCHD has a limited amount of hepatitis A vaccine for uninsured high risk contacts.

More information about the hepatitis A outbreak in Michigan and current recommendations are available at www.mi.gov/hepatitisAoutbreak. Please contact LCHD at (517) 546-9850 or MDHHS at (517) 335-8165 with any questions or to seek consultation during this outbreak.

BECOME A MICHIGAN INFLUENZA SENTINEL PROVIDER

Medical providers of any specialty in nearly any setting who are likely to see patients with influenza-like illness can be sentinel providers. Some advantages are: free respiratory virus cultures; weekly feedback on submitted data; regional, state, national influenza data; and free registration at an MDHHS Regional Immunization Conference. For information about becoming a sentinel provider please contact MDHHS at (517) 335-3385.

THE 2017/18 FLU SEASON HAS ARRIVED

Recently Livingston County has seen sporadic cases of influenza illness across the county. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends annual flu vaccination for everyone 6 months and older. CDC recommends that vaccination with the flu vaccine ideally occurs before onset of influenza activity in the community and that flu vaccination should be offered by end of October, if possible. The nasal form of the influenza vaccine is not recommended again this year because studies did not demonstrate effectiveness against influenza A strains, which tend to be the more severe kinds of infections. All women who are pregnant or who might be pregnant during the influenza season should receive influenza vaccine. For more information about flu vaccination and safety during pregnancy https://www.cdc.gov/flu/protect/vaccine/qa_vacpregnant.htm

The composition of this season's vaccine has been changed and includes:

- 2017–18 trivalent vaccines:
 - an A/Michigan/45/2015 (H1N1)pdm09–like virus;
 - an A/Hong Kong/ 4801/2014 (H3N2)–like virus; and
 - a B/Brisbane/60/2008–like virus (Victoria lineage).
- 2017–18 quadrivalent vaccines:
 - the same three HA antigens as trivalent vaccines, plus
 - a B/Phuket/3073/2013–like virus (Yamagata lineage).

Flu vaccination should be offered as long as influenza viruses are circulating and vaccine is available.

STD UPDATE

Chlamydia, gonorrhea and syphilis increased for the third consecutive year in the U.S. Nationally since 2015, there has been a 4.7% in chlamydia, 18.5% in gonorrhea and a 17.6% increase in syphilis. Disturbingly, there were also 628 cases of congenital syphilis reported in the U.S, a 30% increase. In Livingston County, with the exception of congenital syphilis, of which there have been no reported cases during this time, these increases are also being seen. In particular, the number of gonorrhea cases reported in Livingston County, 36 as of September 30, 2017, has already surpassed the yearly totals for 2015 and 2016. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) states that 30% of new gonorrhea infections each year are resistant to at least one drug, so timely and appropriate treatment of patients and partners is crucial. CDC recommends dual therapy for uncomplicated cervical, urethral and rectal gonorrhea with ceftriaxone 250 mg IM x 1 and azithromycin 1 gram po x 1 for patients and their partners. Expedited Partner Therapy (EPT) with cefixime 400 mg po x 1 and azithromycin 1 gram po x 1 can be used for heterosexual partners if timely treatment for these partners is unlikely. The Livingston County Health Department does have a very limited supply of ceftriaxone and azithromycin for patients and partners who are unable to afford these medications.

The Livingston County Health Department (LCHD) has a new STD Reporting Form for Chlamydia, Gonorrhea and Syphilis for Providers. This form should be completed and faxed to LCHD at 517-545-9685 (secure fax). Our hope is that this will make reporting easier for your office. The form is included in this newsletter and can also be found on the LCHD website at www.lchd.org, then click on Personal and Preventive Health, then Communicable Disease Control.

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services has collaborated with the Henry Ford Health System to provide the “Michigan HIV Consult Program”, a 24/7 Provider-to-Provider consult line staffed by HIV experts at Henry Ford Hospital for questions on HIV disease management, drug interactions, pre-and post-exposure prophylaxis, perinatal HIV treatment and other clinical HIV-related questions you may have. For urgent questions: 313-575-0332. Non-urgent questions can be submitted to www.henryford.com/HIVConsult and will be answered in 24-48 hours.

Call LCHD at (517) 546-9850 to report or consult about a communicable disease. We are available 24/7. If it is after business hours, call 911 and they will contact the appropriate staff.

