



COMMUNICABLE DISEASE UPDATE

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Michigan Hepatitis A Outbreak

Public health officials in Michigan are continuing to see an elevated number of hepatitis A cases throughout the state. As of October 10, 2018, there have been 899 cases of hepatitis A reported in this outbreak, including 723 hospitalizations (80.4%) and 28 deaths (3.1%). Since the beginning of this outbreak in August of 2016, the public health response has included increased healthcare awareness efforts, notification and education of the general public, and outreach with vaccination clinics for high-risk populations. Transmission appears to be through direct person-to-person spread and illicit drug use. Those with a history of injection and non-injection drug use, homelessness or transient housing, and incarceration are thought to be at greater risk in this outbreak setting.

MDHHS recently hosted an hour long webinar focusing on the hepatitis A outbreak. This webinar provided updates on the status of the hepatitis A outbreak in Michigan, focusing on case data review, risk factors, and hospitalizations. Interested persons can access this information (which is updated weekly) at: www.mi.gov/hepAoutbreak.

Did you know?

LCHD offers the hepatitis A vaccine through its immunization clinic on Wednesdays for high-risk* persons who are uninsured or under-insured.

*High-risk persons include those with a history of substance abuse, homeless or transient living persons, men who have sex with men, incarcerated persons, persons with acute or chronic liver disease, and persons who are in close contact with hepatitis A virus (HAV)-infected individuals.

INFLUENZA

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends annual influenza vaccination for everyone six months of age and older. To avoid missed opportunities for vaccination, providers and hospitals are encouraged to offer this vaccine during routine health care visits and hospitalizations.

Given the severity of the 2017/18 influenza season as well as the 183 influenza associated pediatric deaths during the same season, it is important to vaccinate both patients and staff as soon as vaccine becomes available. For more information about influenza, please visit www.cdc.gov/flu.

UPDATED STD REPORTING FORM

We have updated our STD Reporting Form and included a copy in this issue. It can also be found on the LCHD website at www.lchd.org.

We hope you find it convenient for reporting.

Mumps in Southeast Michigan

Four cases of mumps have been confirmed in Washtenaw County young adults. Onset of symptoms ranged from 9/17 to 10/2/18. All are undergraduates at the University of Michigan campus in Ann Arbor. All four individuals had two appropriate doses of MMR. Per the CDC, MMR vaccine prevents most, but not all, cases of mumps. Two doses are 88% effective at protecting against mumps. No direct connection has been found between the four individuals who have confirmed mumps except that they are undergraduates living in dorms on the UM campus. None had recent travel. Secondary cases are possible through late October.

Several suspect mumps cases have been reported to LCHD, and have been all ruled out at this time. Heightened surveillance should continue over the next several weeks. Proper laboratory testing is critical when mumps is suspected as a diagnosis.

Confirmation of mumps infection is important.

Recommended tests include:

- Buccal mucosal (cheek) swab for PCR and:
- Mumps serology (IgM)
- In addition, viral cultures on clinical specimens (respiratory swabs-preferred, or urine) can be done.
- To rule out other viruses that can cause parotitis, a nasopharyngeal (NP) swab for respiratory panel testing is very helpful.
- All suspected and confirmed cases should be reported to the State Health Department at (734)544-6700.

Livingston County Health Department recommends that all persons over the age of 12 months get up-to-date on MMR vaccine. In particular, adults born in 1957 or later should receive two doses of MMR.

Michigan current mumps cases for 2018:

- Ten confirmed cases
- Twenty-two probable cases

SYPHILIS CLUSTER IN MICHIGAN TEENS

In May of 2018, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) initiated an investigation of a cluster of five (5) newly diagnosed syphilis cases in teens aged 14-17 in Mid-Michigan. All five were treated with penicillin and three partners were treated prophylactically. As of September, 13 partners have been identified. Within this sexual network, eight had been diagnosed in the preceding three months with another STD (seven with chlamydia and one with gonorrhea). There were a total of 17 cases of syphilis in 2017, statewide, in this age group.

At this time, Livingston County has had six cases of confirmed syphilis reported in 2018, none in this young age group, however, it is worth noting that gonorrhea and chlamydia rates are at historically high rates in the U.S., including here in Livingston county, and several of the teens in the syphilis cluster had been recently diagnosed with chlamydia and/or gonorrhea. Livingston County Health Department will continue to monitor STD trends in our county.

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.