

# DPHHS HAN HEALTH UPDATE

## Cover Sheet

**DATE:** March 26, 2019

**SUBJECT:** Widespread Outbreaks of Hepatitis A among People Who Use Drugs and People Experiencing Homelessness across the United States

**For LOCAL HEALTH  
DEPARTMENT reference only**

DPHHS Subject Matter Resource for more information regarding this HAN, contact:

**DPHHS CDCP  
Epidemiology Section  
1-406-444-0273**

### INSTRUCTIONS:

***DISTRIBUTE*** to your local HAN contacts. This HAN is intended for general sharing of information.

- Time for Forwarding: **As Soon As Possible**
- Please forward to DPHHS at [hhshan@mt.gov](mailto:hhshan@mt.gov)
- **Remove this cover sheet before redistributing and replace it with your own**

**DPHHS Health Alert Hotline:  
1-800-701-5769**

**DPHHS HAN Website:  
[www.han.mt.gov](http://www.han.mt.gov)**

## REMOVE THIS COVER SHEET BEFORE REDISTRIBUTING AND REPLACE IT WITH YOUR OWN

**Please ensure that DPHHS is included on your HAN distribution list.  
[hhshan@mt.gov](mailto:hhshan@mt.gov)**

### Categories of Health Alert Messages:

**Health Alert:** conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention.

**Health Advisory:** provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action.

**Health Update:** provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; unlikely to require immediate action.

**Information Service:** passes along low level priority messages that do not fit other HAN categories and are for informational purposes only.

**Please update your HAN contact information on the Montana Public Health Directory**

# DPHHS HAN Information Sheet



**Date:** March 26, 2019

**Subject:** Widespread Outbreaks of Hepatitis A among People Who Use Drugs and People Experiencing Homelessness across the United States

**Background:** CDC has alerted health departments to be aware of ongoing outbreaks of hepatitis A in multiple states across the country. These outbreaks are primarily occurring among people experiencing homelessness and those who use drugs and have caused more than 15,000 illnesses and 140 deaths since the outbreaks were identified in 2016. Montana has had one case of hepatitis A reported to date in 2019; the case was not homeless and did not use drugs. There were no hepatitis A cases reported in Montana in 2018.

**Information:** Previous CDC HAN Message - DPHHS HAN ADVISORY 2018-5: Outbreak of Hepatitis A Virus (HAV) Infections among Persons Who Use Drugs and Persons Experiencing Homelessness Posted 6/12/2018

**Recommendations:** The attached message includes updated recommendations for use of hepatitis A vaccine as post-exposure prophylaxis among people 12 months of age and older. Immunoglobulin may also be administered to adults older than 40 years of age. Montana is not currently experiencing a hepatitis A outbreak, but providers and health departments should remain vigilant for hepatitis A cases and proactively develop prevention strategies, including vaccination of high risk groups. Local health departments are asked to contact the Communicable Disease Epidemiology section when investigating suspect cases of hepatitis A.

[Link to CDC HAN 00418](#)