

# HEPATITIS A OUTBREAKS

Outbreaks of hepatitis A are occurring nationwide. Hospitalizations and deaths have been higher than usual, especially among older people and those with comorbid conditions. People at higher risk for infection include people who use drugs and those experiencing homelessness. These populations may be more likely to seek care in emergency departments than in primary care settings. Please screen for these risk factors and administer hepatitis A vaccine.

## What Emergency Departments Can Do



**FOLLOW** appropriate infection control practices, including proper hand hygiene



**ADVISE** post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) for close contacts of infected people within 2 weeks of exposure



**REPORT** all confirmed or suspected hepatitis A cases to your health department in a timely manner



**VACCINATE** patients at risk

- Serologic testing is NOT required or recommended in order to vaccinate
- A single dose of hepatitis A vaccine is about 95% seroprotective in healthy individuals

## Assess and Vaccinate Patients at Risk

- People who use drugs (injection or non-injection)
- People experiencing homelessness or transient living
- People who are, or were recently incarcerated
- Men who have sex with men
- People with underlying liver disease (cirrhosis, hepatitis B, or hepatitis C)

[www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/HepAOutbreak](http://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/HepAOutbreak)