



ALLEGHENY COUNTY

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Health Department Confirms Four Unconnected Cases of Hepatitis A *Recommends At-Risk Residents to Get Vaccinated Against HAV*

PITTSBURGH – The Allegheny County Health Department (ACHD) announced that four unconnected cases of Hepatitis A (HAV) have been reported in the county in the last six weeks, which brings the total number of HAV cases in 2018 to five. On average, less than 10 HAV cases are reported to ACHD each year.

While the county's 2018 HAV numbers are lower than what multiple other states have reported, the Health Department is remaining vigilant and monitoring the situation closely. We recommend that at-risk residents get vaccinated against Hepatitis A to prevent this disease from spreading.

Those at high-risk include: the homeless, people who use illicit drugs (injection and non-injection) and men that have sex with men. Those who provide services to the homeless and food handlers can also be at risk.

Hepatitis A is a vaccine-preventable, communicable disease of the liver, and is usually transmitted from person-to-person through the fecal-oral route or from consuming contaminated food or water. While childhood vaccination against Hepatitis A has been routine since 2006, many adults over the age of 20 may not have received the vaccine.

Although Hepatitis A is very contagious, you can take the following steps to prevent Hepatitis A:

- Get vaccinated for Hepatitis A
- Don't have sexual intercourse with someone who has the Hepatitis A infection
- Use your own towels, toothbrushes and eating utensils
- Don't share food, drinks, or smoking products with other people
- Wash your hands with soap and water after using the bathroom, changing diapers, and before preparing, serving or eating food

The Health Department's [immunization clinic](#) offers free Hepatitis A vaccinations to under or uninsured residents. Please call 412-578-8060 for more information.

For more information on Hepatitis A, view this Q&A from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC): <https://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/hav/afaq.htm>.

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