

9/22/2017

LOS ANGELES COUNTY ASKS PHARMACIES TO STOCK HEPATITIS A VACCINE

Note: The following letter is written and authorized for dissemination by the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health.

September 20, 2017

Dear Pharmacy Provider:

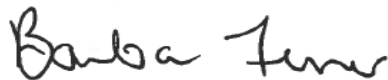
The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (DPH) declared a local outbreak of hepatitis A (HAV) in Los Angeles County on September 19, 2017. Ten total cases of hepatitis A have been confirmed. These cases are associated with homeless or illicit drug-using individuals or in institutions that serve the homeless in Los Angeles County. Of these cases, five occurred among people who had travelled from San Diego or Santa Cruz counties, which have ongoing outbreaks of hepatitis A; three occurred in an institution following contact with a case; and two appear to have been acquired locally.

This letter is intended to inform and request action from community pharmacies in Los Angeles County regarding the prevention of Hepatitis A among the homeless and people who use illicit drugs. On Sept 19th, 2017, the California Department of Public Health issued a clinical advisory to help control Hepatitis A outbreaks. It is unknown how long the outbreak here in Los Angeles County will continue, but information on the current epidemiology of outbreaks in San Diego and Santa Cruz suggest these may continue for months, or perhaps longer than a year.

DPH will continue to conduct outreach clinics to offer HAV vaccine in conjunction with community partners. As part of our broader vaccination strategy, DPH requests community pharmacies to support vaccination of persons by providing the HAV vaccine as an in stock item available for use. This will increase accessibility of the vaccine and ensure adequate supplies for patients. Priority groups that we recommend vaccinating include the homeless, those who use illicit drugs and personnel who may provide direct services to these populations. Sanitation workers servicing areas where homeless individuals reside or congregate are also recommended to receive hepatitis A vaccine.

Thank you for your cooperation. For questions, please contact the DPH Acute Communicable Disease Control Program at 213-240-7941 weekdays 8:30am-5pm.

Sincerely,



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Director

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