

NMDOH Hepatitis A Guidance: Hospital Emergency Departments



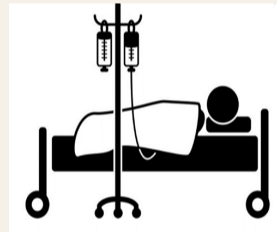
What is hepatitis A?

Hepatitis A is a highly contagious, vaccine-preventable liver infection. The infection spreads from person-to-person through ingestion of food, water, or oral contact with objects (including hands) contaminated by feces of an HAV-infected individual. Transmission occurs easily among sexual contacts and close household contacts, as well as among persons sharing needles and non-injection drugs. The incubation period can be 15 - 50 days.

Vaccinate patients at risk:

- Men who have sex with men (MSM)
- Persons with a history of substance abuse
- Persons currently homeless or in transient living
- Correctional facility inmates
- Persons with underlying liver disease*

Hepatitis A New Mexico Outbreak



Most cases have required hospitalization and have been associated with people who inject drugs or are experiencing homelessness

*Note: persons with underlying liver disease (e.g., cirrhosis, hepatitis B, or hepatitis C) are at increased risk of having poor outcomes if they are infected with hepatitis A.



What are the symptoms of hepatitis A?

Jaundice and/or elevated serum aminotransferase (ALT) levels and any of the following symptoms:

- Nausea or vomiting
- Abdominal pain
- Fever
- Loss of appetite
- Fatigue / tired
- Jaundice (yellowing of the skin or eyes)
- Dark urine, pale stools, or diarrhea



Report all confirmed or suspected cases to the New Mexico Department of Health, Epidemiology and Response Division within 24 hours by calling 505-827-0006 and or faxing patient demographics and laboratory report to 505-827-0013



Prevent hepatitis A through vaccination, standard precautions and proper handwashing.

Promote vaccination for those exposed and anyone in a risk group.