

Getting Hep to Hep A

Sophia Dyer, MD, FACEP, FAEMS Boston EMS

Jonathan Jui, MD, MPH FACEP, FAEMS Portland

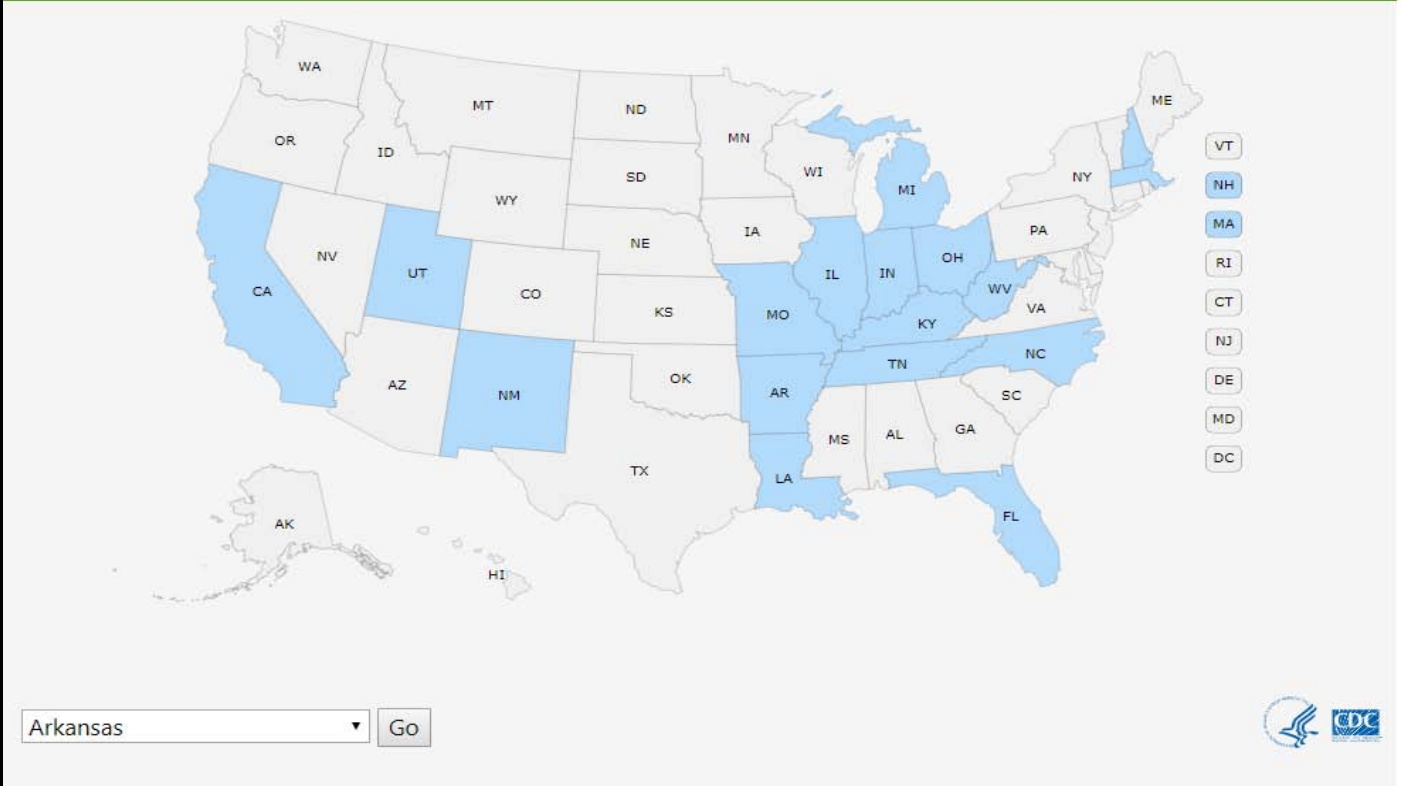
Are you ready for the call?



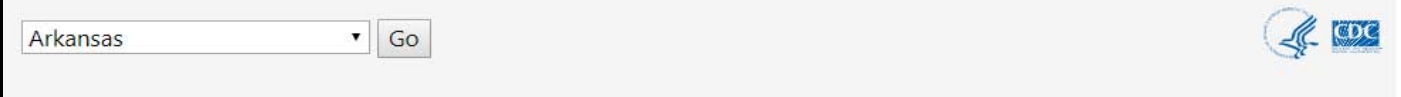
You have a Hep A outbreak....



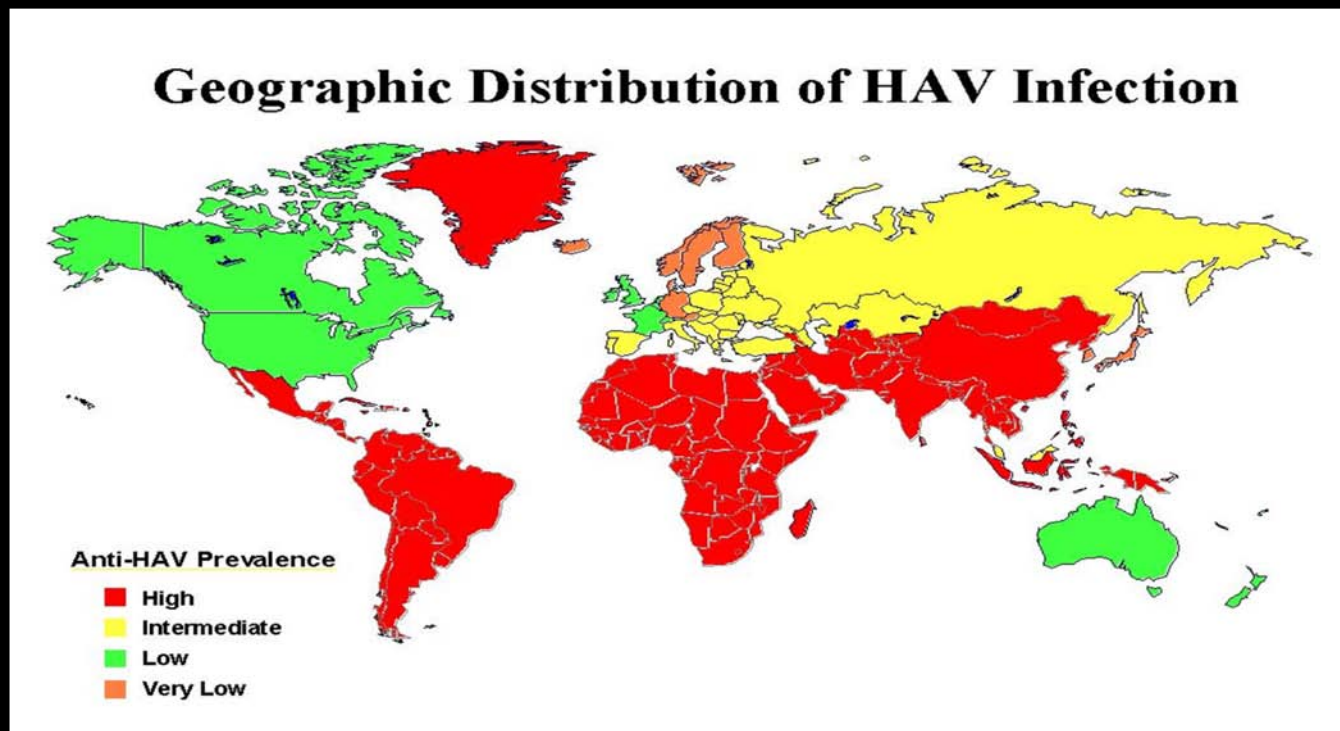
State-Specific Hepatitis A Outbreak Information - click for state's website



Go



Epidemiology in the World



Why Should You Care About Hepatitis A?

If a person has an infection with the Hepatitis A virus, it can easily spread from person-to-person and cause liver disease lasting a few weeks to a serious illness lasting many months. In some cases, people can die because of Hepatitis A.

How Does Hepatitis A Spread?

- Touching objects or eating food that someone with Hepatitis A infection handled
- Having sex with someone who has a Hepatitis A infection



What Are the Symptoms of Hepatitis A?



Fever



Fatigue



Nausea



Loss of appetite



Jaundice
(yellowing of the
skin or eyes)



Stomach
pain



Vomiting



Dark urine,
pale stools, and
diarrhea

If you think you have Hepatitis A because of these symptoms, see your doctor or visit the closest Emergency Room. Always wash your hands with soap and water after going to the bathroom and before preparing food.

Who is at increased risk for acquiring hepatitis A virus (HAV) infection?

- **Persons with direct contact with persons who have hepatitis A**
- Travelers to countries with high or intermediate endemicity of HAV infection
- Men who have sex with men
- **Users of injection and non-injection drugs**
- Persons with clotting factor disorders
- Persons working with nonhuman primates
- Household members and other close personal contacts of adopted children newly arriving from countries with high or intermediate hepatitis A endemicity

How long does hepatitis A virus (HAV) survive outside the body?

- HAV can live outside the body for months, depending on the environmental conditions
- In the environment, HAV can be killed by cleaning household or other facility surfaces with a freshly prepared solution of 1:100 dilution of household bleach to water

Current CDC Guidelines for Health Care Institutions:

- Healthcare personnel do not have increased prevalence of HAV infection and healthcare-associated outbreaks of HAV are rare. Therefore, Hep A vaccination is not **routinely recommended** for health care personnel in the United States.

But we disagree.....



**LET'S JUST AGREE
TO DISAGREE**

Occupational Exposure in Fire and EMS Personnel



The Journal of Emergency Medicine

Volume 11, Issue 1, January–February 1993, Pages 9–16



Original contribution

Occupational infectious disease exposures in EMS personnel

Elizabeth Reed R.N., M.P.H. *, †, ‡, Mohamud R. Daya MD *, †, Jonathan Jui MD *, †, ‡, Kathy Grellman RN *, Leith Gerber RN ‡, Mark O. Loveless MD ‡

Occupational Exposures in Fire / EMS personnel

- 15 (5.9%) were eye splashes
- 8 (3.1%) were mucous membrane exposures
- 38 (14.8%) were exposure to nonintact skin

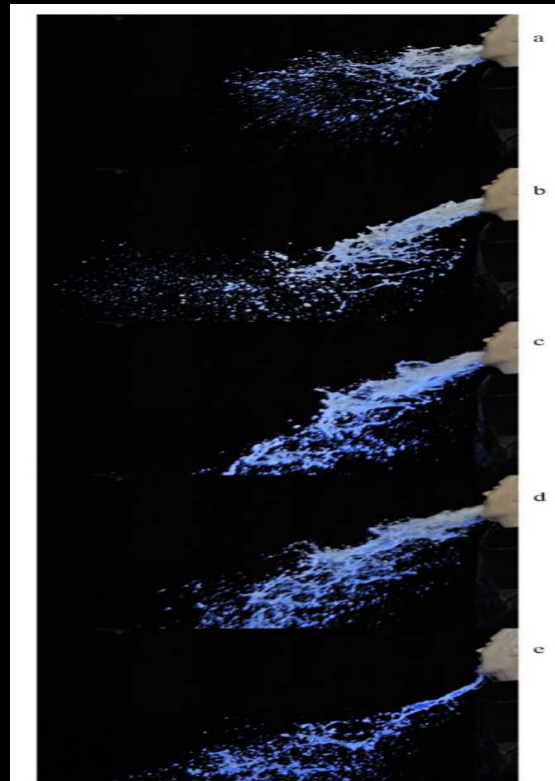
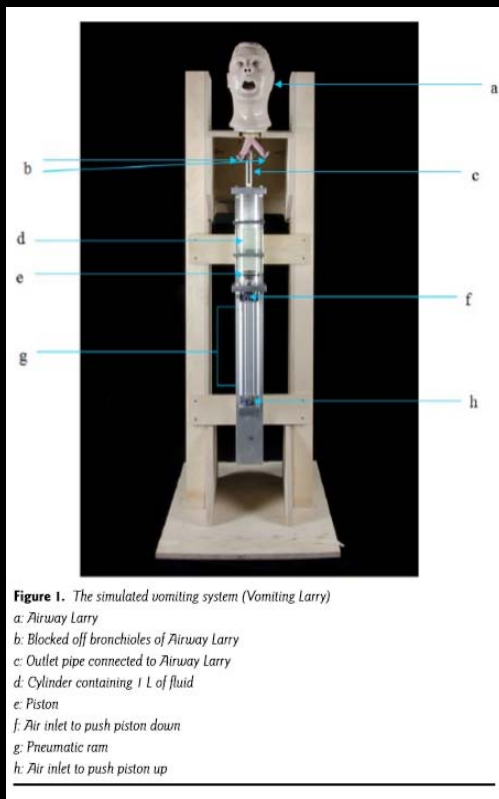
Viral hepatitis risk in urban emergency medical services personnel

Pepe, Hollinger, Troisi, Heiberg,
Ann Emerg Med 1986 Apr; 15(4): 454-7

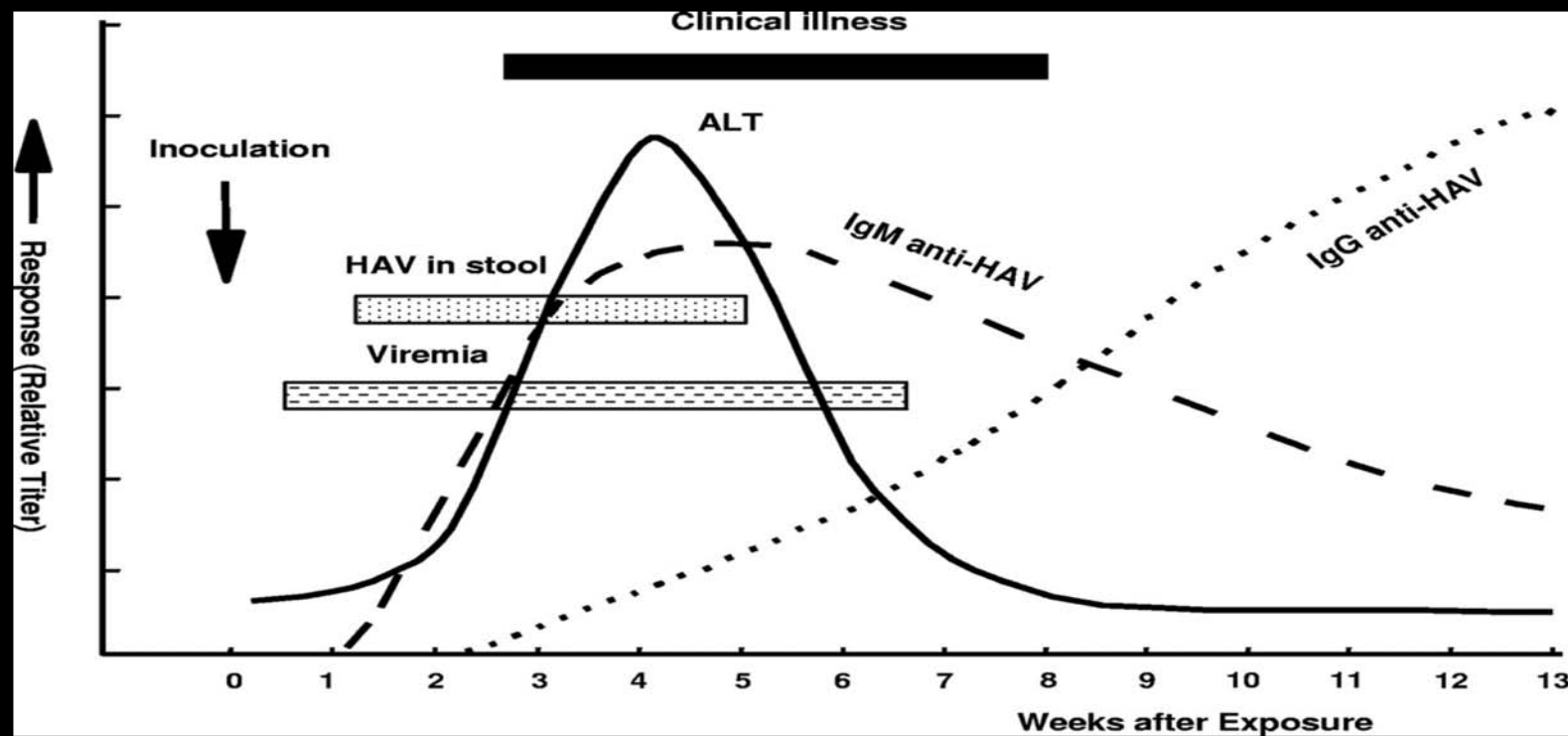
Viral hepatitis risk in urban emergency medical services personnel

- **Final Word:** Of prehospital providers screened 16% had Hep A antibodies
- Prior to vaccine available

Unique Hazards to Medical Personnel



Hepatitis A : Serology vs Infectious Agent



CDC Hepatitis A Post Exposure Prophylaxis

- Exposed to HAV within the prior 14 days and have not previously completed the 2-dose HepA vaccine series should receive a **single dose of Hep A vaccine** as soon as possible

Hepatitis A Vaccine

HAVRIX (GlaxoSmithKine)



VAQTA (MERCK)



GamaSTAN S/D

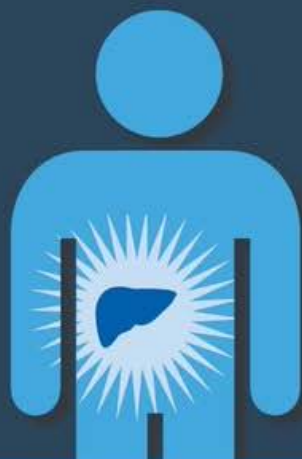
Hepatitis A Post Exposure Prophylaxis



- GamaSTAN S/D is the **only IG product** approved by the Food and Drug Administration for hepatitis A virus (HAV) prophylaxis.

STOP ONGOING OUTBREAKS OF HEPATITIS A**HEPATITIS A VIRUS INFECTION**

- **CAUSES LIVER DISEASE**
- **EASILY SPREADS**
- **PREVENTABLE WITH A VACCINE**

**SPREADING
PERSON-TO-PERSON**

**AMONG PERSONS REPORTING
DRUG USE OR HOMELESSNESS**



**71%
HOSPITALIZED**
**3%
DIED**

**1,521
CASES
4
STATES
2017**

**>7,000
CASES
12
STATES
2016 - 2018**

**INCREASE VACCINATION**

- **PEOPLE WHO USE DRUGS**
- **PEOPLE EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS**
- **OTHER AT-RISK GROUPS***



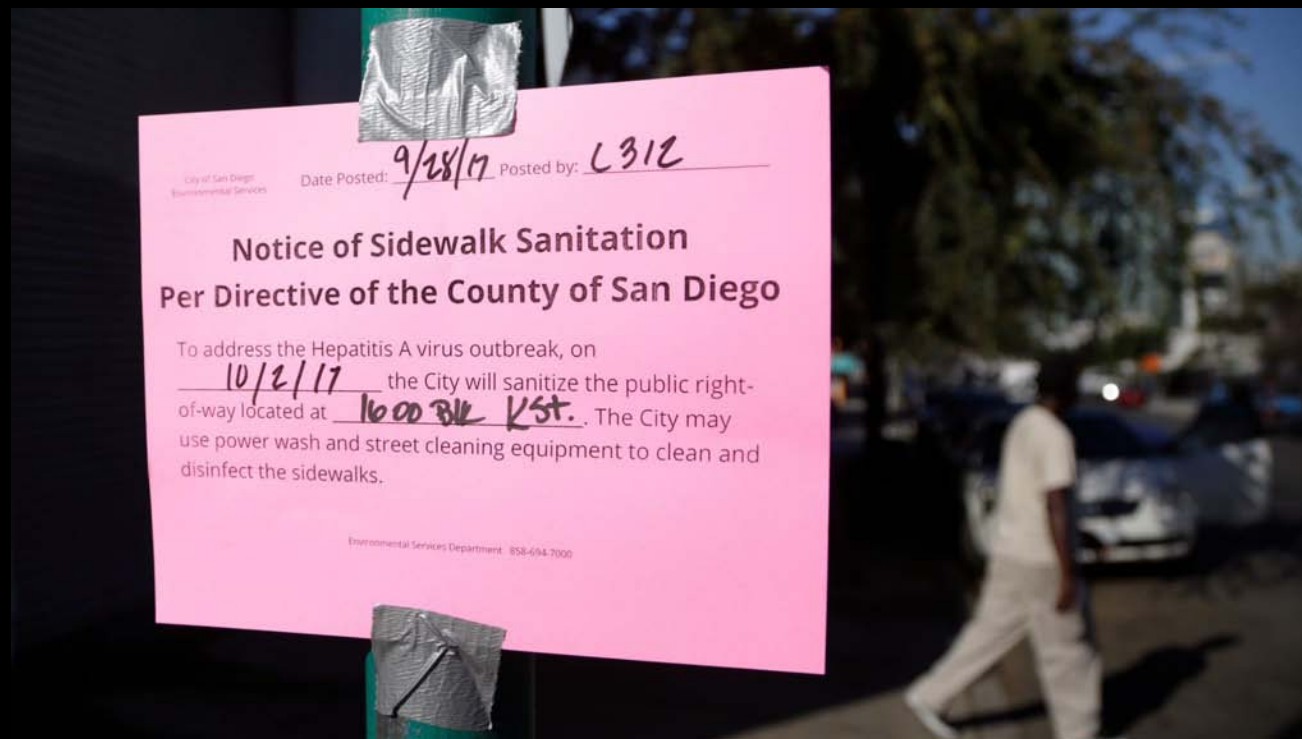
*CDC hepatitis A vaccine recommendations: bit.ly/CDChepA

Data from 2017 outbreaks as reported to CDC from California, Michigan, Kentucky, and Utah and published in Foster et al, *MMWR* 2018: bit.ly/MMWRhepA

CS 202376-6

WWW.CDC.GOV

Hep A: Coming to a sidewalk near you!



Measles

The other problem

What is the greatest infectious threat to your personnel?

Measles

IT ISN'T JUST A LITTLE RASH

Dr. Jui-How infectious is Measles?

90% of the people close to that person who are not protected will also become infected

- Measles spreads when infected people **cough or sneeze**
- Infected people can spread measles 4 days before they get the rash through 4 days after it appears

The Measles Facts

- High fever
 - Cough
 - Runny nose
 - Red, watery eyes
 - Tiny white spots inside the mouth
 - Rash from head to toe
-
- **Three to five days after symptoms begin, a rash breaks out.**
 - When the rash appears, a person's fever may spike to more than 104° Fahrenheit.
 - After a few days, the fever subsides and the rash fades.





[CLINICAL INTERVENTIONS](#) > [BEST PRACTICES & COMPLIANCE](#)

APIC Guide Emphasizes Special Infection Prevention Needs of EMS Personnel

What is a system to do?

enhance
learned about
information. n
facts provide
details about
knowledge

Take Home

Be Vigilant

Be Vaccinated

Be Informed

**BE
ALERT
AND
REMAIN
VIGILANT**