



OHIO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

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John R. Kasich/Governor

Lance Himes/Director of Health

DATE: September 28, 2018

TO: Federally-Qualified Health Centers and Rural Health Centers

FROM: Sietske de Fijter, MS *SK*
State Epidemiologist and Chief, Bureau of Infectious Diseases

RE: Hepatitis A Vaccine Availability and Ordering for Statewide Community
Outbreak Response

The Ohio Department of Health (ODH) and local public health departments continue to investigate and respond to the statewide hepatitis A outbreak. The most effective protection against hepatitis A disease is vaccination. As part of an ongoing response effort, ODH is working with multiple partners to increase hepatitis A vaccination among high-risk individuals. As critical healthcare access points for underserved communities, Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) and Rural Health Centers (RHCs) are in a key position to offer vaccination to high-risk adults aged 19 years and older. In response to the hepatitis A outbreak, the ODH Immunization Program will make available federally funded 317 adult hepatitis A vaccine to all Vaccines for Children (VFC) enrolled FQHCs and RHCs.

FQHCs and RHCs interested in obtaining adult hepatitis A vaccine for this outbreak must complete the Outbreak Response Immunization Agreement form. Please review the following guidance on hepatitis A vaccine eligibility and frequently asked questions (FAQs) prior to completing and submitting the agreement. Vaccine orders can be placed online via the ImpactSIIS Vaccine Ordering Management System (VOMS). A separate outbreak control order set has been created for FQHCs and RHCs. For accountability purposes, all administered doses must be submitted to ImpactSIIS.

Individuals eligible for the outbreak response hepatitis A vaccine are medically uninsured or under-insured and fall into any of the high-risk groups:

- Persons who use injection and non-injection illicit drugs
- Persons who are homeless or in transient living conditions
- Persons who are or were recently incarcerated
- Men who have sex with men
- Persons with chronic liver disease, such as cirrhosis, hepatitis B, or hepatitis C

Screening for insurance is expected during routine immunization clinics held at the FQHC/RHC. ODH is not requiring additional screening for insurance, Medicaid or other coverage for payment for high-risk hepatitis A outreach clinics in the field.

ODH appreciates your partnership to protect Ohioans from hepatitis A. If you have any questions about ODH supplied hepatitis A vaccine and ordering, please contact the ODH Immunization Program at (800) 282-0546 or (614) 466-4643. For information about the Ohio hepatitis A outbreak, check the ODH website at <https://www.odh.ohio.gov/hepa>

Attachments: 2 (Outbreak Response Immunization Agreement; FAQs)

Outbreak Response Immunization Agreement

Facility/Clinic Name:	VFC Pin # (5 digits)
Outbreak Vaccine Coordinator:	Telephone Number:

To receive federally funded outbreak response vaccine at no cost, I agree to the following conditions, on behalf of myself and all the practitioners, nurses and others associated with the health care facility of which I am the Medical Director or equivalent:

1. I will screen patients for eligibility and administer federally-funded outbreak response vaccine only to adults who are 19 years of age or older, medically uninsured or under-insured and fall into any of the high-risk groups:
 - a. Persons who use injection and non-injection illicit drugs
 - b. Persons who are homeless or in transient living conditions
 - c. Persons who are or were recently incarcerated
 - d. Men who have sex with men
 - e. Persons with chronic liver disease, such as cirrhosis, hepatitis B, or hepatitis C
2. I will comply with the immunization schedules, dosages and contraindications that are established by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) for adult immunization.
3. I will **submit all vaccine doses administered in ImpactSIS, the State Immunization Registry**. This can be done through our Electronic Medical Record (EMR) system or direct entry.
4. I will maintain all records related to the Outbreak Response for a minimum of three (3) years and make the records available upon request.
5. I will immunize eligible adults with federally-funded outbreak response vaccine at no charge to the patient for the vaccine (an administration fee is allowable).
6. I will distribute the most current Vaccine Information Statements (VIS) each time a vaccine is administered and report clinically significant adverse events to the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS).
7. I will comply with the requirements for vaccine management. This includes:
 - a. Keeping outbreak vaccine stored in same refrigerator with VFC inventory, identified, but separated
 - b. Not storing vaccine in dormitory-style refrigeration units at any time
 - c. Storing vaccine under proper storage conditions in accordance with the CDC Storage and Handling guidelines
 - d. Using a certified or calibrated thermometer in the vaccine refrigerator
 - e. Recording the temperature at least twice each business day in each refrigerator used for vaccine storage
 - f. Notifying ODH of any vaccine temperature excursions immediately or no later than the next business day following weekends and holidays
 - g. Cooperating with ODH action steps if vaccine is determined to be non-viable
8. I will cooperate with ODH to recall patients for revaccination if vaccine administered was non-viable or administered incorrectly.
9. I understand this facility or ODH may terminate this agreement at any time. If I choose to terminate this agreement, I will properly return any unused federal vaccine as directed by ODH.

By signing this form, I certify on behalf of myself and the facility, I have read and agree with the Ohio Department of Health Outbreak Response Immunization Requirements listed above.

Medical Director (or equivalent) Name (print): _____

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Mail completed forms to:	Immunization Program – Bureau of Infectious Diseases Ohio Department of Health 35 E. Chestnut Street, 6th Floor Columbus, OH 43215
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For ODH Use Only:				
Hardcopy	Order Set	Email Conf	OPMS	Spreadsheet

Hepatitis A Vaccines during Outbreak Response for Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) and Rural Health Centers (RHCs) Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

How should patients be screened for hepatitis A outbreak risk factors?

The Ohio Department of Health (ODH) recommends universal screening of patients to identify and vaccinate high-risk patients during their visit. If the patient's history includes any of the following risk factors, then vaccination should be provided (i.e. do not refer patients elsewhere for vaccination):

- Persons who use injection and non-injection illicit drugs
- Persons who are homeless or in transient living conditions
- Persons who are or were recently incarcerated
- Men who have sex with men
- Persons with chronic liver disease, such as cirrhosis, hepatitis B, or hepatitis C

To qualify for ODH outbreak response hepatitis A vaccine, the patient does not need to disclose which specific risk factor applies to them. However, the patient should acknowledge that they fall into at least one of the above risk factors.

Patients ≥ 12 months and older who have been exposed to hepatitis A (i.e. by household, sexual, or otherwise close contact with a person infected with hepatitis A or by an infected food handler) may receive vaccine for post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP).

Who is eligible to receive public vaccine during the hepatitis A outbreak?

Use of public vaccine is reserved for eligible patients – those who are aged 19 years and older, are uninsured or underinsured and meet one of the risk factors listed under the question above, “How should patients be screened for hepatitis A risk factors?” Screening for insurance is expected during routine immunization clinics held at the FQHC/RHC. Patients with Medicaid or private health insurance that covers vaccination are not eligible for public vaccine; they should be vaccinated with private vaccine stock.

Please note, if the insurance status of a high-risk patient is undetermined, ODH recommends using public vaccine to ensure that high-risk patients are vaccinated. ODH is not requiring additional screening for insurance, Medicaid or other coverage for payment for high risk outreach clinics in the field.

What is the status of public vaccine availability?

Currently, there are national vaccine supply constraints and ODH continues to work with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to prioritize high-risk individuals for vaccination. Sites are encouraged to order a quantity of public vaccine through the ImpactSIIS Vaccine Ordering Management System (VOMS) based on an estimated number of eligible, high-risk patients seen. Although national vaccine supply constraints exist, health centers should continue to order as much of the vaccine as is necessary to cover their estimated eligible high-risk patients. ODH Immunization Program staff are available to assist with ordering.

Should FQHCs/RHCs be providing a second dose of hepatitis A vaccine in six months?

Hepatitis A vaccine is typically given as two shots, at least six months apart; however, for anyone who has not been previously vaccinated, a single dose of hepatitis A vaccine is 95% protective, can provide protection for up to 11 years, and has been demonstrated to help curb outbreaks. For more information from CDC, visit the [CDC hepatitis A outbreak website](#).