

IDENTIFY - IMMUNIZE - INFORM

Emergency Department Evaluation and Management of Patients at High Risk of Hepatitis A



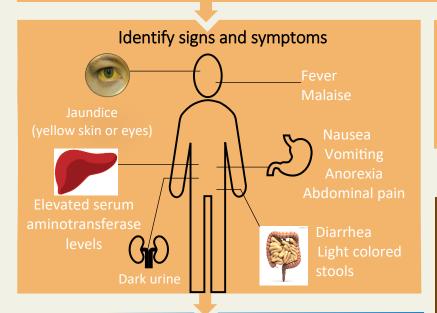
Since December 2018, over 400 New Jersey residents have been infected with hepatitis A. The most effective way to reduce spread of the outbreak is ensuring that people who are at high risk for hepatitis A receive at least one dose of hepatitis A vaccine. The algorithm below can help determine if your patient should be vaccinated.

ENTIFY

Identify high risk patients:

- 1. People who use drugs (injection or non-injection)
- 2. People experiencing unstable housing or homelessness
- 3. People who are currently or were recently incarcerated
- 4. Men who have sex with men
- 5. People with chronic liver disease, such as cirrhosis, hepatitis B or hepatitis C*

If YES, assess for signs & symptoms and identify history of hepatitis A vaccine

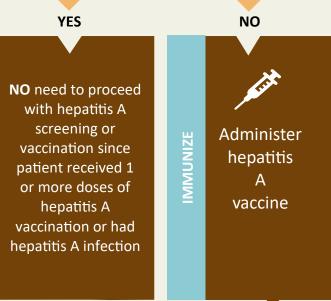


Isolate:

- 1. Observe standard precautions
- **2.** Implement contact precautions when caring for incontinent and diapered patients
- **3.** Observe hand hygiene with soap and water: wash hands for at least 10-20 seconds
- 4. Confirm diagnosis with serum IgM testing

History of hepatitis A vaccine and infection:

- **1.** Have you ever received the hepatitis A vaccine?
- 2. Were you ever diagnosed with hepatitis A?



Inform:

- 1. Report suspected and confirmed cases **IMMEDIATELY** to local health department where the patient resides and Hospital Infection Control. Local health department contact information is available at **localhealth.nj.gov**.
- 2. Patients with hepatitis A should not work in food establishments and healthcare/childcare settings until two weeks after symptom onset.
- **3.** Close contacts (e.g., food handler, household or sexual) of ill patients should be vaccinated within 14 days of exposure to prevent illness. Food handler contacts who do not get vaccinated within 14 days must be excluded from work for 28 days.
- **4.** Provide education to patients about hepatitis A, how it spreads, and how to prevent it.
- **5.** For more information about hepatitis A and New Jersey's outbreak response, go to https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/topics/hepatitisa.shtml.

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