

Mission:

To protect, promote & improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county & community efforts.



Ron DeSantis
Governor

Joseph A. Ladapo, MD, PhD
State Surgeon General

Vision: To be the **Healthiest State** in the Nation

Hepatitis A Update

March 21, 2022

Florida is observing ongoing transmission of hepatitis A virus (HAV) among certain populations in communities in Florida. Between October 1, 2021 and March 19, 2022, 103 hepatitis A cases were reported across 20 counties. Of these new cases, 84 percent were reported in males and most of these individuals were not up to date on their hepatitis A vaccination or their vaccine status was unknown.

Health care providers are reminded to assess patients for hepatitis vaccination status and offer the hepatitis A vaccine to those who meet eligibility; especially those deemed to be at higher risk for infection with the hepatitis A virus. Higher risk patients include men who have sex with men, people experiencing homelessness, individuals who use drugs (injecting or non-injecting drugs), individuals in close contact with people diagnosed with hepatitis A, the recently incarcerated and those with recent foreign travel to countries where hepatitis A is [highly endemic](#). Persons at increased risk of severe complications from hepatitis A should also be offered vaccination; this includes persons with hepatitis B or C co-infections and individuals over 60 years of age with serious underlying health conditions.

Patients who present with symptoms that could indicate recent infection with the hepatitis A virus should be tested for infection.

- Symptoms of hepatitis A can last up to two months and include fatigue, nausea, abdominal pain and jaundice.
- Clinical findings suggestive of hepatitis A include elevated liver enzymes (ALT and bilirubin).

Health care providers enrolled in the Vaccines for Adults (VFA) or Vaccines for Children (VFC) programs can order hepatitis A vaccine through their VFA or VFC account in the Florida State Health Online Tracking System (Florida SHOTS) (www.flshotsusers.com). Florida Administrative Code rule 64F-16.004 prohibits charging for the cost of vaccines provided by the Florida Department of Health purchased through a federal contract. Providers having trouble placing orders or who need assistance with Florida SHOTS can contact the Department's Immunization Section at 877-888-7468.