



CITY OF CLEVELAND
Mayor Frank G. Jackson

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
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Number of Hepatitis A Cases in Cleveland More Than Double From Previous Year

CLEVELAND – Thirteen new cases of hepatitis A have been reported in Cleveland from January 2018 to November 2018, according to data from the Cleveland Department of Public Health (CDPH). This represents an increase of 117 percent over the same period last year. These new cases have occurred during an ongoing outbreak of hepatitis A in Ohio.

The hepatitis A virus is a contagious liver disease most commonly spread by the ingestion of food or water contaminated by feces (poop) or by oral contact with contaminated objects. Most infections result from contact with an infected household member or a sexual partner. Hepatitis A cannot be spread through coughing or sneezing.

The Hepatitis A infection can range from mild to serious, lasting a few weeks to several months. Anyone who is infected may spread the virus to others starting 1-2 weeks prior to symptoms appearing. Symptoms include fatigue, abdominal pain, nausea/vomiting, fever, yellow skin (jaundice), dark urine, pale stool and joint pain.

To get more information on how hepatitis A is spread and who is most at risk, please visit the Center for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) website at <https://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/hav/afaq.htm#transmission>

Free Vaccine Available

In response, CDPH will offer the hepatitis A vaccine at its health centers. The vaccine is available free of charge. Vaccination is strongly encouraged for at-risk individuals. Anyone concerned about potential exposure should speak with their health care provider, pharmacist or the health department as soon as possible. Below are dates and times that the free Hepatitis A vaccine is available in CDPH clinics. Note: Reproductive health patients can get the vaccination during normal clinic hours.

| FACILITY | DAYS | TIME | ADDRESS/PHONE |
|-----------------------------------|--|---|--|
| McCafferty Health Center | Every Monday | 8 -11 a.m. | 4242 Lorain Ave. |
| | 1st, 2nd and 4th Wednesday Every 2 nd and 4 th Thursday | 8- 11 a.m., 1 - 4 p.m. 4-7 p.m. | (216) 664 - 6603 or (216) 664 - 4120 |
| J Glen Smith Health Center | Every 2 nd and 4 th Tuesday | 4 p.m. – 7 p.m. | 11100 St. Clair Ave. |
| | Every Thursday | 8-11 a.m. | (216) 664 - 2704 or (216) 664 - 4120 |

The vaccine will also be available at the upcoming Homeless Stand Down, scheduled for Jan. 12, 2019 in Cleveland Public Auditorium.

Take steps to limit the risk of the hepatitis A infection and the potential infection of others by:

- Getting vaccinated.
- Washing hands frequently with soap and water.

For more information about hepatitis A, contact Adam Nation by phone at 216-664-2889 or by email at anation@cleveland.oh.us.

About the City of Cleveland

The City of Cleveland is committed to improving the quality of life its residents by strengthening neighborhoods, delivering superior services, embracing diversity and making Cleveland a desirable, safe city in which to live, work and play. For more information on the City of Cleveland, visit online at www.city.cleveland.oh.us, Twitter at [@cityofcleveland](https://twitter.com/cityofcleveland) or Facebook at www.facebook.com/cityofcleveland

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