

Hepatitis A Update

Food Service Establishments

As of April 2, 2018, there are Eighty-six (86) Hepatitis A cases in Southeast Missouri. Cases have been identified in the following counties Butler-66, Carter-1, Dunklin-2, New Madrid-1, Ripley-3, Scott-2, and Stoddard-11. 4 Hepatitis A cases have been identified in food handlers that worked while potentially contagious; 2 of the 4 have been in Butler County. Butler County's totals 66 of the 85 cases; 71% self-identified as people who use drugs, while 15% identified as close personal contacts of people who use drugs. The age range of cases reported is 16-68.

If you have any employees at risk due to using drugs or having close personal contact to people who use drugs, he or she can receive Hepatitis A vaccine for free at Butler County Health Department.

Prevention of the spread of Hepatitis A includes proper handwashing, glove usage, and enforcement of wellness policy. Employees exhibiting any signs or symptoms listed below need to be excluded from work related duties, per your wellness policy guidelines.

Signs or Symptoms of Hepatitis A includes:

- Fatigue
- Sudden nausea and/or vomiting
- Abdominal pain or discomfort, especially on the upper right side of the abdomen
- Pale or clay colored bowel movements
- Loss of appetite
- Low-grade fever
- Dark urine
- Joint pain
- Yellowing of the skin and the whites of your eyes (jaundice)
- Intense itching

Thank you,

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