

SAY WHAT?

Due to an out pouring of comments, our focus on this post is to respond to the questions and concerns over the Hepatitis A Outbreak/Vaccination post.

Over 100 reported Hepatitis A cases have been confirmed in the state of Missouri.

Butler County has confirmed 71 cases of Hepatitis A.

59% of those cases have been hospitalized; with an average hospital stay of 3.5 days.

The ages have ranged from 13-67 years old.

Of the people infected, 66.2% self-identified as a drug user and 18.3% self-identified as close personal contacts of someone who uses drugs.

15.5% have been unknown.

Precautions should be taken by everyone in the county who fit the criteria.

The criteria for the HAV vaccine would be any adult or youth who are close personal contacts to Hepatitis A cases, and/or people who use drugs and their close personal contacts. Also, any child ages 1-19 years old.

This vaccine is not MANDATORY but is RECOMMENDED.

If you choose not to vaccinate please be educated on the universal precautions to keep you and your family from coming into contact with this virus.

Preventative measures to protect yourself and those around you from spreading this virus include proper handwashing before eating and after using the restroom. Also avoid eating or drinking after someone experiencing any symptoms.

Symptoms can vary from 15-50 days. HAV symptoms include nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, jaundice (yellowing of skin or eyes), abdominal pain, fatigue, and/or pale colored stool. If symptoms continue too long, hospitalization can occur.

If you have a high risk of exposure to Hepatitis A, come in for your free education/vaccination!