



COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO HEALTH AGENCY  
PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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## PROVIDER HEALTH ADVISORY

**Date:** July 18, 2017

**Contact:** Christine Gaiger, PHN, Communicable Disease Program Manager  
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### Hepatitis A Outbreak in San Diego and Santa Cruz Counties

Following an outbreak of hepatitis A among people in San Diego and Santa Cruz Counties who are homeless or use illicit drugs, the County of San Luis Obispo Public Health Department asks providers to be alert for illness suggestive of hepatitis A and to offer vaccination to those most at risk.

To date, no cases related to this outbreak have been reported in San Luis Obispo County.

Since November 2016, 228 cases and 5 deaths have been reported in San Diego County. Since April 2017, at least 27 cases have been reported in Santa Cruz County. The same strain of hepatitis A virus has been identified in both counties as well as in Arizona and Utah. The infection appears to have spread from person to person and not through food. Most of the cases have been among people who are homeless or use illicit drugs, including injection and non-injection drugs.

In light of this outbreak, the Public Health Department asks clinicians to:

- **Assess patients in high-risk groups.** If you see a patient who is homeless or who uses illicit drugs, assess the patient for signs of hepatitis A and provide appropriate follow-up care. Note that serologic testing for hepatitis A is not recommended for asymptomatic people.
- **Report hepatitis A promptly.** Providers are required to report hepatitis A to the County of San Luis Obispo Public Health Department within one working day of identification. Report by phone at 805-781-5500 (8 a.m. – 5 p.m.) or 805-781-4553 (after hours), or electronically via CalREDIE or by confidential fax to 805-781-5543. ([Download the reporting form.](#))
- **Offer vaccine to patients in high-risk groups.** Offer the hepatitis A vaccine to individuals you treat who are homeless or who use illicit drugs.

Patients can get the hepatitis A vaccine from their primary care providers, at a pharmacy, or at [Public Health Department clinics](#) in Grover Beach, Paso Robles, or San Luis Obispo.

For more information about Hepatitis A, see [www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/hav](http://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/hav) or contact Christine Gaiger via the details above. This notice is also available online at [www.slopublichealth.org](http://www.slopublichealth.org).

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#### Public Health Department

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