



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
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HONOLULU, HI 96801-3378

In reply, please refer to:  
File:

July 14, 2016

MEDICAL ADVISORY: HEPATITIS A POST-EXPOSURE PROPHYLAXIS

Dear Healthcare Provider:

The Hawaii Department of Health (HDOH) investigation of the ongoing hepatitis A virus (HAV) outbreak on Oahu continues. A source has not yet been identified; however, preliminary findings suggest a widely distributed and commonly consumed product. Providers should therefore be aware of appropriate post-exposure prophylaxis measures for persons who may have been exposed to an HAV-infected individual as well as the means to obtain such prophylactics for your patients.

HAV Post-Exposure Prophylaxis Guidelines

Persons who have been exposed recently to HAV and have not previously received HAV vaccine should receive one dose of single-antigen hepatitis A vaccine or immune globulin (IG; 0.02 mL/kg) as soon as possible, **within 2 weeks after exposure**.<sup>1</sup> The efficacy of IG or vaccine administered greater than 2 weeks after exposure has not been established.

CDC Guidelines:<sup>1</sup>

Age/Health Status	Administer
Children aged <12 months	IG
Healthy persons aged 12 months - 40 years	HAV vaccine
Healthy persons older than 40 years	IG preferred, HAV vaccine if IG not available
Immunocompromised persons	IG
Persons with chronic liver disease	IG
Persons allergic to the vaccine or a vaccine component	IG

*\*Contacts who are food handlers must have a negative hepatitis A IgM test before they return to work.*

Obtaining IG or HAV Vaccine

Immune globulin is *shipped by distributors directly to providers*, typically overnight or via 2-day shipping, depending on the delivery location. For a list of IG distributors and pharmacies able to order IG for clinician administration, visit <http://health.hawaii.gov/docd/hepatitis-a-post-exposure-prophylaxis> or call (808) 586-8300.

Hepatitis A vaccine is available by physician prescription at many pharmacies, although supplies may vary by store given the current high demand. Vaccination cost may be covered by insurance, but coverage varies. Dial 2-1-1 by phone, or refer to [http://health.hawaii.gov/docd/files/2013/07/IMM\\_Adult\\_Resource\\_List.pdf](http://health.hawaii.gov/docd/files/2013/07/IMM_Adult_Resource_List.pdf) for a list of locations.

<sup>1</sup>For further information regarding hepatitis A post-exposure prophylaxis, please visit <http://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/HAV/HAVfaq.htm>

**\*\* This message contains privileged communication between the Department of Health and clinicians and should not be shared with or forwarded to those not included among the original recipients. \*\***

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HAV infection is an URGENTLY REPORTABLE condition and should be reported to HDOH at the time infection is first suspected. Persons with HAV infection should be excluded from food-handling and direct-care occupations for the first 2 weeks of illness and at least 7 days after onset of jaundice. Any children with HAV infection should be excluded from preschool for 10 days after illness onset. If you have any questions, please contact the Department of Health's Immunization Branch at (808) 586-8300.

We appreciate your assistance in preventing secondary HAV infections among Hawaii's residents and visitors.

Sincerely,



Sarah Y. Park, MD, FAAP  
State Epidemiologist  
Hawaii Department of Health

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