



**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**  
P. O. BOX 3378  
HONOLULU, HI 96801-3378

In reply, please refer to:  
File:

June 21, 2021

**MEDICAL ADVISORY: HEPATITIS A CASES ON OAHU AND MAUI**

- **HEPATITIS A VIRUS (HAV) INFECTION IS URGENTLY NOTIFIABLE**
  - **REPORT BY TELEPHONE WHEN HAV INFECTION IS SUSPECTED**
  - **DO NOT WAIT FOR LABORATORY CONFIRMATION**
- **HEPATITIS A VACCINE SHOULD BE ADMINISTERED TO UNVACCINATED PEOPLE WHO HAVE RECENTLY BEEN EXPOSED TO HAV**
- **CO-ADMINISTRATION OF IMMUNE GLOBULIN IS RECOMMENDED UNDER CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES**
- **PERSONS AT RISK FOR HAV INFECTION SHOULD BE VACCINATED, INCLUDING PERSONS WHO USE DRUGS OR WHO ARE EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS**

Dear Healthcare Provider:

The Hawaii Department of Health (HDOH) is investigating five cases of hepatitis A virus (HAV) infection: 4 cases have been identified on Oahu and one case on Maui. Onset dates have ranged from March 28<sup>th</sup> to June 3<sup>rd</sup>. Four of the five cases were hospitalized. These cases do not appear to be linked to five cases of HAV reported on Oahu in November and December 2020. All five have a history of drug use; three of the five are experiencing homelessness. No common source has been identified to date.

All persons aged 1 year and older at [risk for HAV infection or for severe disease from HAV](#) without contraindications should be vaccinated with hepatitis A vaccine, including persons who use injection or non-injection drugs (i.e., all those who use illegal drugs) and persons experiencing homelessness.

HAV is transmitted via the fecal-oral route, usually through direct person-to-person contact or contaminated food or water. The illness is usually mild and self-limited; however, disease severity increases in persons who are older or immunocompromised, have chronic liver disease, or other underlying health conditions. Symptoms can include fever, fatigue, anorexia, nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain, dark urine, diarrhea, pale stools, and jaundice. The average incubation period is 28 days (range: 15 – 50 days).

Laboratory confirmation of HAV infection requires detection of immunoglobulin M (IgM) antibodies against HAV (anti-HAV IgM) or a positive nucleic acid amplification test (NAAT) for hepatitis A virus RNA.

Hepatitis A vaccine should be administered as soon as possible to all unvaccinated people aged  $\geq 1$  year who have recently been exposed to hepatitis A virus (HAV). In addition to hepatitis A vaccine, co-administration of GamaSTAN S/D immune globulin (0.1 mL/kg) is recommended under [certain circumstances](#). Both vaccine and immune globulin should be administered within 2 weeks after exposure for maximum protection.

For further information, see "[Prevention of Hepatitis A Virus Infection in the United States: Recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices, 2020.](#)"

HAV infection is urgently notifiable. Please report any clinically suspected case of Hepatitis A immediately – do **NOT** wait for laboratory confirmation:

Oahu (Disease Reporting Line).....(808) 586-4586  
Maui District Health Office.....(808) 984-8213  
Kauai District Health Office.....(808) 241-3563  
Big Island District Health Office (Hilo).....(808) 933-0912  
Big Island District Health Office (Kona) .....(808) 322-4877  
After hours on Oahu.....(808) 600-3625  
After hours on neighbor islands .....(800) 360-2575 (toll free)

We appreciate your assistance in monitoring for and preventing HAV infection among Hawaii's residents and visitors.

Sincerely,



Sarah K. Kemble, M.D.  
Acting State Epidemiologist



## Hawaii Department of Health Provider Advisory Network (PAN)

The Hawaii Department of Health (HDOH) has set up a new Provider Advisory Network (PAN) that will serve to quickly distribute information to Hawaii's medical community. Through the network, users will be able to receive alerts about new medical advisories, view past medical advisories, and access other resources. **This system will be replacing the current distribution system for medical advisories, so if you wish to continue receiving medical advisories, you will have to register with PAN.**

PAN is available to all healthcare providers in Hawaii who provide direct patient care. You can access PAN by using the following URL:

<https://PAN.health.hawaii.gov>

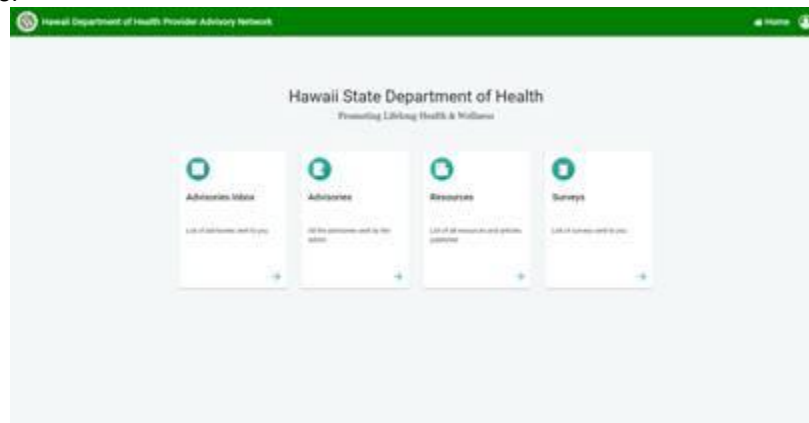
In order to access PAN features, you must register for an account and submit a profile for account approval.

### Registering for PAN:

1. Go to <https://PAN.health.hawaii.gov>
2. Click on "Create an account" then fill in your information and click "Sign up" to receive a verification email.
3. After verifying your email address, log into PAN and fill out your profile, then click submit. After submitting, your account will have to be approved before you have access to PAN. You will receive an email once your account has been approved.
4. After your account has been approved, return to the site and log in again. You will now have access to the content within PAN.

### PAN features:

After your account has been approved, when you log in to PAN you will arrive a home page from which you can access PAN's features.



*PAN's home page*

**Advisories Inbox:** You will receive email alerts when medical advisories that match your profile are sent out (matching is based on county and specialization). This section contains only those advisories that match your profile (note: all advisories, including ones not matching your profile, are accessible in the "Advisories" section).

**Advisories:** Contains all released medical advisories.

**Catalogs:** Collections of resources for health care providers (informational pages, links, documents, etc.)

**Surveys:** Surveys sent out to users will be accessible through this section.

If you have any questions about PAN, please email [doh.PAN.admin@doh.hawaii.gov](mailto:doh.PAN.admin@doh.hawaii.gov).