



News From Cabell-Huntington Health Department (07-27-2018)

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### **CABELL COUNTY HEPATITIS A OUTBREAK UPDATE**

HUNTINGTON, WV - The Cabell-Huntington Health Department is continuing to monitor the multistate outbreak of hepatitis A in Cabell County. Health officials are still working diligently to investigate the high case load.

During the monthly board meeting this past Wednesday, July 25<sup>th</sup> Board of Health members took action on two important matters. The board approved to allocate \$20,000 towards the purchase of additional hepatitis A vaccine. This vaccine will be made available to those community members with limited resources who may not otherwise qualify for vaccine assistance. The Board of Health also acted to strengthen the enforcement of existing regulation to reduce the risk associated with bare handed contact with specific foods in preparation and serving.

The health department would like to remind the community on the critical steps of prevention for hepatitis A.

**Prevention:** Thorough handwashing with soap and hot water after using the toilet and before handling food is the most important factor in preventing spread. Vaccinations are highly effective if received within 14 days of exposure. Two doses of hepatitis A vaccination is recommended, second dose is received six months after first dose. After receiving the first dose, the vaccine is 95% effective. Vaccine is available

#### **Hepatitis A Vaccine**

The hepatitis A vaccine is a 2 shot series and is available at Cabell-Huntington Health Department. The cost of the vaccine is \$75.00 per shot. The second dose in the series is given 6 months after the first dose. Hepatitis A immunization is well tolerated and widely available, after the first dose the vaccine is 95% effective.

Further information on hepatitis A can be obtained at [www.cabellhealth.org](http://www.cabellhealth.org) or <https://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/hav/>.

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