



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Region IV Public Health
Clark, Cowlitz, Skamania, Wahkiakum counties
and Cowlitz Tribe

Health Advisory

Please deliver a copy of the accompanying alert to each provider in your organization.

Thank you

**Questions regarding this alert may be
directed to the office of:**

Alan Melnick, MD, MPH
Health Officer

Clark County Public Health
Cowlitz County Health Department
Skamania County Health Department
Wahkiakum County Department of Health and Human Services
(360) 397-8412

Please Distribute

Categories of Health Alert messages:

Health Alert: conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention.

Health Advisory: provides important information for specific incident for situation; may not require immediate action.

Health Update: provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; no immediate action necessary.



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HEALTH ADVISORY

June 4, 2013

TO: Physicians and other Healthcare Providers

FROM: Alan Melnick, MD, MPH, CPH, Health Officer

RE: Hepatitis A Outbreak Post Exposure Prophylaxis Recommendations UPDATED

The purpose of this is to update treatment recommendations made in the provider advisory yesterday. The 6-3 advisory can be found at <http://www.clark.wa.gov/public-health/advisories.html>. This change in guidance is due to the limited amount of immune globulin (IG) available. If you have an exposed patient who meets the criteria below, you can contact your local health department for assistance in securing IG.

Recommendations for physicians and other healthcare providers in Southwest Washington:

Immune Globulin for PEP

- Immune Globulin should be used for those less than 12 months and were exposed in the previous two weeks. If exposure was greater than 2 weeks ago, parents should be instructed to watch for signs and symptoms of hepatitis and seek care immediately if they develop.
- Immune Globulin should be used to treat those 12 months and older who were exposed in the last 2 weeks if they meet any of the following criteria:
 - The person is severely immune compromised.
 - The person has severe liver disease.
 - The person has contraindications for receiving Hepatitis A vaccine.
- Persons > 12 months treated with IG who do not have contraindications should also receive Hepatitis A vaccine

Hepatitis A Vaccine for PEP

- All exposed people 12 months and older not included in the above risk categories, should receive Hepatitis A vaccine as post exposure prophylaxis. Those unvaccinated who were exposed greater than 2 weeks ago should still receive vaccine to protect them from future exposures.

For More Information

- CDC Outbreak information:
<http://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/Outbreaks/2013/A1b-03-31/index.html>

To report other notifiable conditions or if you have questions, please call:

- Clark County Public Health: (360) 397-8182
- Cowlitz County Health and Human Services: (360) 414-5599
- Skamania County Community Health: (509) 427-3850
- Wahkiakum County Health and Human Services (360) 795-6207

Thank you for your partnership.