



Hepatitis A Outbreak Fact Sheet



Facts pertaining to the San Diego County outbreak:

- Dr. Wilma Wooten, the Director of Public Health Services for the County of San Diego, declared a public health emergency for San Diego County on September 1, 2017.
- Hepatitis A is a contagious virus often spread person to person, and can result in severe cases of liver disease, serious illness, and even death, although it is far more common to result in an illness of a few weeks to several months.
- This disease is spread by the ingestion of microscopic amounts of fecal matter via close person-to-person contact, eating food or touching objects handled by an infected person, and use of recreational drugs whether injected or not.
- The average incubation period is 28 days, and the virus can live outside of the body for months, depending on environmental conditions.
- Thorough cleaning and chlorination is effective, and the most effective method is a two dose injection series.

Statistics regarding the outbreak in San Diego County:

- Between 11/22/16- 09/14/17 there were 444 confirmed cases reported
- This has resulted in 305 (69%) hospitalizations and 17 deaths (3.6%)
- 152 (34%) homeless / illicit drug use

A note from Escondido Deputy City Manager, William Wolfe:

Although this may seem a bit frightening and daunting, you should know that since 1994 there have been five previous years in which we have had an outbreak of

cases exceeding 400 in San Diego County. Although we are proceeding cautiously to maximize the safety of our citizens and city employees, I am confident that the City of Escondido is taking appropriate measures, including enhanced proactive measures, to minimize the risk to all. I am working closely with City staff, in implementing a comprehensive plan focusing on three strategies;

Vaccinate: Currently, The San Diego County Health and Human Services nurses are regularly partnering with Escondido Police officers to mobilize, contact and offer vaccinations to members of our homeless community. To date, we have vaccinated over 100 persons. Additionally, we are requiring vaccinations of our employees who operate in an area of higher risk for infection, and are encouraging any employee that is interested in receiving the vaccination series to contact their Primary Health Care Provider for an appointment.



Sanitize: City staff is working closely with County Health and Human Services and is exceeding the County's protocol for sanitization of our permanent restrooms/hand washing facilities.

Educate: We are working with the Department of Health and Human Services to provide educational materials to our local businesses and their employees.

As you can see, several steps are in place to efficiently and safely combat this latest outbreak of Hepatitis A. With the cooperation of our employees, our citizens, and our friends at Health and Human Services, we are confident that this will soon be under control and virtually eliminated.