Hepatitis A Outbreak in Kanawha and Putnam Counties and Response

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This is Us

Map showing the state of West Virginia with the area code 304 highlighted.
Appalachia Continues to Struggle with Hepatitis A Outbreak
## 2018 West Virginia Hepatitis A Outbreak

### West Virginia Hepatitis A Outbreak Cases*
**as of May 10, 2019**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of Cases</th>
<th>2513</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Demographics</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Age Range</strong></td>
<td>1-87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Median Age</strong></td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Male</strong></td>
<td>1466 (58.3%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Hospitalizations</strong></td>
<td>1241 (49.4%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Deaths</strong></td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Risk Factors</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Co-infection with Hepatitis C</td>
<td>1064 (55.8%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Information available for 1907 cases)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Co-infection with Hepatitis B</td>
<td>196 (10.3%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Information available for 1907 cases)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reports Illicit Drug Use</td>
<td>1493 (70%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Information available for 2139 cases)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homeless</td>
<td>236 (9.4%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Hepatitis A Outbreak - Kanawha County EPI Center

2018-19 Kanawha County Hepatitis A Outbreak Epi Curve
(by onset of illness date)

n = 799
Covenant House - Ground Zero
The Covenant House Project - Key Partners

Kanawha-Charleston Health Department
Covenant House
Health Right of WV
Prestera
Roark Sullivan Lifeway Center
Union Mission
WV Bureau for Public Health
Manna Meals
Marshall Medicine
Great Rivers System of Addiction Care
YWCA - Sojourners
Charleston Area Medical Center
Kanawha County Emergency Ambulance Authority
As Health Officer for Kanawha County, I strongly recommend that all facilities that provide congregate housing for at risk populations (i.e. shelters, recovery centers, transitional housing) implement policies requiring health screenings, testing and hepatitis A vaccinations for all residents within one week of admission.

On July 11th, I met with representatives from agencies that serve the homeless/substance abuse populations to discuss a strategic plan to reduce the number of infectious hepatitis A cases by providing hepatitis A vaccinations to high-risk individuals.

As a result of our community meeting, the Kanawha-Charleston Health Department and West Virginia Health Right are partnering to offer on-site vaccinations at The Covenant House every Tuesday (schedule enclosed). Also concerning are the number of clients residing in communal shelters and group homes that may not have access to healthcare. WV Health Right has offered to provide health screenings, testing, and vaccinations to help prevent the spread of infectious diseases, such as Hepatitis A which is highly communicable. I am enclosing a letter from Dr. Angie Settle that details the services that are provided at WV Health Right.

As Health Officer for Kanawha County, I strongly recommend that all facilities that provide congregate housing for at risk populations (i.e. shelters, recovery centers, transitional housing) implement policies requiring health screenings, testing and hepatitis A vaccinations for all residents within one week of admission.
Dear patient,

I am writing in order to inform you of the importance of getting vaccinated against hepatitis A. Hepatitis A is a contagious disease that can cause liver damage and, in severe cases, can lead to liver failure. The vaccine is important to prevent the spread of this disease and to protect those who are at risk of exposure. The vaccine is recommended for all individuals who are at risk of exposure.

Hepatitis A is most commonly spread through the ingestion of contaminated food or water. It is important to wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water after using the bathroom, before eating or handling food, and after changing diapers. Avoid consuming raw or undercooked shellfish, as they may be contaminated with viruses.

Hepatitis A vaccine is recommended for all individuals who are at risk of exposure, including:
- Men who have sex with men
- People who use injection drugs
- People who have had close personal contact with someone who has hepatitis A
- People who live in areas where hepatitis A is common
- People who travel to areas where hepatitis A is common

It is important to consult with your healthcare provider to determine if you are at risk of exposure and if you need the vaccine.

Thank you for your attention to this important health issue.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

West Virginia HealthRight

1520 Washington Street, East • Charleston, WV 25311
Phone: 304-414-5730 • Fax: 304-343-7099

Hepatitis A Vaccination Clinics

Covenant House

600 Shrewsbury St. • Charleston, WV 25301

VACCINATIONS are AVAILABLE at NO CHARGE to the following groups:
- HOMELESS
- Close personal contact (sexual activity) to someone who is homeless or using drugs
- Food service workers

Phone 304-414-5630 or 304-348-6493 for more information

Vaccine supplied by Bureau for Public Health

KCHD
Vaccination Strategies - Mapping

- Zip Code: 25301
- Number of Cases 11
  - 5 at Covenant House and 3 and 3 at Roark Sullivan Lifeway
- Incidence Rate of 4.4 per 1,000
Managing HIV and Hepatitis C Outbreaks Among People Who Inject Drugs

Hepatitis A
Hepatitis B
Hepatitis C
HIV
Welcome and Introductions
Ellen Allen, Covenant House Director
9:15 am – 9:45 am

HIV in West Virginia
Cathy Slemp, MD, MPH
WV Health Officer and Commissioner, Bureau for Public Health
9:45 am – 10:15 am

HIV Basics and Public Health Prospective
Janet Briscoe, MBA, RN, CIC
Kanawha-Charleston Health Department
10:15 am – 10:45 am

Community Health Services for HIV
Angie Settle, DNP, BC, FNP
CEO, WV Health Right
10:45 am – 11:15 am

Linkage to Care
Christine Teague, PharmD
Ryan White Program Director
11:15 am – 11:45 am

Partnership Sharing and Q & A
11:45 am – 12:00 am

Next Steps
Strategies for Community Awareness and Understanding of HIV

Janet Briscoe, RN, BSN, MBA, CIC
Director of Epidemiology and Threat Preparedness
Kanawha-Charleston Health Department
PARTNERSHIPS COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATIONS

- Referrals For All clients to Healthcare Facilities for Screening and Testing
- Educational Materials on HIV and HCV for clients
- List of Resource Phone Numbers
- Support Mass Testing Clinics
- Continue to Attend Meetings
- Educate Staff and Volunteers
What Have We Learned?  
What Can Public Health Do Better?

- Don’t Wait Until It’s Too Late
- Continue Partnerships
- Knowledge of Community Issues
- Outreach to High Risk Populations
- Education to Community Service Organizations
- Engage Politicians
- Ask for Help