



LEE HARRIS
MAYOR

SHELBY COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

ALISA R. HAUSHALTER, DNP, RN, PHNA-BC
DIRECTOR

BRUCE RANDOLPH, MD, MPH
HEALTH OFFICER



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: July 22, 2019

CONTACT: Joan Carr
Office: (901) 222-9010
Cell: (901) 691-5704

BE ALERT TO THE SYMPTOMS OF HEPATITIS A

SHELBY COUNTY, TN – Shelby County has been affected by a multi-state outbreak of hepatitis A, that has sickened more than 1,800 in Tennessee since early last year. Ten Tennesseans have reportedly died of the illness. Here in Shelby County, there have been 27 cases and no reported deaths.

The hepatitis A outbreak has been concentrated among certain vulnerable populations, including the incarcerated, those experiencing homelessness, and recreational drug users. However, any unvaccinated person who is exposed to the hepatitis A virus may develop the illness.

Hepatitis A is a virus that causes inflammation of the liver and is usually transmitted from person to person through contact with contaminated feces or consumption of contaminated food or water. Symptoms include fever, abdominal pain, diarrhea, nausea or vomiting, dark urine, weight loss and yellow skin and eyes.

“The Shelby County Health Department strongly encourages anyone who experiences the symptoms of hepatitis A to seek medical care and testing,” said Health Director Alisa Haushalter. “Prompt treatment may prevent more serious complications, and knowing you have hepatitis A allows your family and close contacts to receive preventative vaccination. If given within 14 days of exposure, the hepatitis A vaccine is highly effective in preventing the illness.”

The Health Department is offering free hepatitis A vaccinations to populations who are especially at-risk. Anyone who believes they may be at risk may receive a free hepatitis A vaccination at any of the following public health clinics, without an appointment, Monday-Friday, between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 3:30 p.m.

Cawthon Public Health Clinic

1000 Haynes, 38114

Collierville Public Health Clinic (Tuesday and Thursday, 9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.)

167 Washington St., 38017

Hickory Hill Public Health Clinic

6590 Kirby Center Cove, 38118

Mission

To promote, protect and improve the health and environment of all Shelby County residents.

814 Jefferson Avenue ♦ Memphis, TN 38105 ♦ 901 222-9000 ♦ www.shelbytnhealth.com

Immunization Clinic

814 Jefferson, Rm. 216, 38105

Millington Public Health Clinic

8225 Highway 51 North, 38053

Packer Clinic

814 Jefferson, Room 221, 38105

Shelby Crossing Public Health Clinic

6170 Macon Road, 38133

Southland Mall Public Health Clinic

1287 Southland Mall, 38116

Hepatitis A vaccinations may also be obtained at primary care providers.

“We encourage anyone in the high-risk groups to be vaccinated as soon as possible. The Health Department is conducting outreach vaccination efforts among the vulnerable populations and also partnering with other organizations and health care providers to vaccinate as many at-risk people in Shelby County as possible,” said Dr. Haushalter.

For more information about hepatitis A, visit our website: <http://www.shelbytnhealth.com/>.

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