HEPATITIS A UPDATE FOR WASHINGTON STATE: MITIGATING OUTBREAKS IN INCARCERATED COMMUNITIES

Office of Immunization and Child Profile
Presenter

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Background

- Hepatitis A is a contagious liver infection spread through infected stool

- Low vaccination rates in adults and poor access to hygiene opportunities have led to an increase in cases

- Statewide increase since April 2019

- Statewide hepatitis A outbreak declared in July 2019
Background

Since April 2019:

- 17 counties impacted
- 370 cases
- 214 hospitalizations
- 6 deaths
Nationwide outbreaks

State-Reported Hepatitis A Outbreak Cases as of July 18, 2020
Hepatitis A Vaccine

- Vaccination is the best way to prevent hepatitis A

- Quick action by public health has helped to control the outbreak. As of January 2020:
  - **10,440** vaccine doses ordered by local health jurisdictions
  - **8,000** doses administered
  - **500** vaccination events held statewide

- 2020 orders:
  - **3,130** vaccine doses

New recommendations from CDC/ACIP
Case Reporting during COVID-19

- Case reporting times may be longer than usual

- Reduction in cases since February 2020 may be due to fewer people seeking testing/treatment for hepatitis A

![Bar chart showing hepatitis A cases by month of onset (or diagnosis) from 2019 to 2020. The highest number of cases occurred in 2020-01.]
Hepatitis A in Correctional Settings

- Cases identified in correctional facilities in Washington state

- Hepatitis A infection can be serious, particularly in patients with underlying health conditions, and/or:
  - Drug use (injection or non-injection)
  - Liver disease (hepatitis B, hepatitis C, etc.)
  - Homelessness or unstable housing
  - Any of the above and have HIV infection
Vaccination Outreach Models

Spokane Regional Health District
- Conducts weekly outreach and hepatitis A vaccinations
  - Strong partnership with county jail and designated corrections officer
  - Public health nurse and immunizations program coordinator
  - Cell-to-cell outreach & vaccination (with consent)
  - Vaccination of food service workers

Yakima Health District
- Prioritizes vaccination for inmates who report homelessness/unstable housing at intake
Resources for Correctional Settings

- Federal Bureau of Prisons Hepatitis A Clinical Guidance (2019). Includes guidance for:
  - Prevention
  - Diagnosis
  - Treatment
  - Infection control

- Hepatitis A Vaccination Guidance for Outbreak Prevention and Response (in-progress). Will include guidance for:
  - Correctional settings
  - Field teams
  - Hospital/Emergency Department settings
  - Syringe Service Programs (SSPs)
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