



## MID-MICHIGAN DISTRICT HEALTH DEPARTMENT Your public health team, connecting with our communities to achieve healthier outcomes

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### **Hepatitis A vaccination clinic planned**

Ithaca, Stanton, St. Johns- Michigan is experiencing a large Hepatitis A outbreak that has caused hundreds of illnesses, hospitalizations, and claimed lives. In an effort to help stop the spread, Mid-Michigan District Health Department will be holding a vaccination clinic on May 22, 2018 at Montcalm Care Network, which is located at 611 N. State Street in Stanton. The clinic will run from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and is open to the public. Those without insurance may qualify for a free or low-cost vaccine. No one will be turned away due to an inability to pay.

Hepatitis A is a highly contagious virus that causes serious liver disease. The hepatitis A virus is found in the feces, or poop, of people infected with hepatitis A. Currently in Michigan, this virus is spreading person to person, among those who use drugs, the homeless, men who have sex with men, and those who have close contact with these groups.

According to Dr. Jennifer Morse, Mid-Michigan District Health Department's Medical Director, you can get hepatitis A by consuming food or water contaminated with the virus, having sex or sharing things with someone who is infected, or just by living with an infected person.

When someone is exposed to hepatitis A, they usually develop symptoms in fifteen to fifty days and are sick for several weeks or months. Not everyone will develop symptoms, but those who do feel tired, have nausea, vomiting, belly pain, loss of appetite, fever, yellowing of the skin or eyes, dark colored urine, pale-colored feces (poop), and joint pain. If you have these symptoms, you should contact your doctor immediately.

People infected with hepatitis A in this outbreak have been very sick. Over eighty percent of those infected have been hospitalized and many have died. For this reason, it is important for all of us to know how to protect ourselves and others from this infection. Hepatitis A is very contagious, so don't share food, drinks, eating utensils, tooth brushes, towels, drugs, or smoking materials with others. Be sure to wash your hands often, especially after using the restroom and before preparing food. And lastly, if you are at-risk of getting hepatitis A, get vaccinated!

If you are not able to attend the vaccination clinic at Montcalm Care Network on May 22, you can call the Mid-Michigan District Health Department to make an appointment to get vaccinated at 989-831-5237. You can also visit the health department's website at [www.mmdhd.org](http://www.mmdhd.org) to see a complete list of Hepatitis A vaccination clinics offered by MMDHD and other health departments State-wide.

*Mid-Michigan District Health Department serves the residents of Clinton, Gratiot and Montcalm Counties.*

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