

**FREMONT COUNTY  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH & ENVIRONMENT**

**201 N 6<sup>TH</sup> STREET**

**CANON CITY, CO 81212**

**(719) 276-7450 FAX NUMBER (719) 276-7451**



April 1, 2019

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Emma Davis, Fremont County Public Health Director at [emma.davis@fremontco.com](mailto:emma.davis@fremontco.com) or 719-276-7450

**Subject: Three Confirmed Hepatitis A Cases in Fremont County**

Fremont County Department of Public Health & Environment (FCDPHE) was notified on March 31, 2019 of a third positive hepatitis A (Hep-A) case. FCDPHE is working with state and local partners to vaccinate those who may have been exposed or are at high-risk of exposure during this outbreak.

Hepatitis A virus is a liver infection that can be prevented with a safe, effective vaccine. It is highly contagious and can cause liver disease lasting a few weeks to a serious illness lasting months. Rarely, it causes death. Hepatitis A usually spreads when a person unknowingly ingests the virus from objects, food or drinks that are contaminated by small, undetected amounts of stool from an infected person. It also spreads through close personal contact with an infected person such as through sex or caring for someone who is ill.

Persons at high risk of exposure to hepatitis A in this outbreak include:

- People who are transient or experiencing homelessness.
- People who use injection and noninjection street drugs.
- People who live with or have sex with someone who has hepatitis A.

Vaccination clinics for persons at high-risk of exposure will continue to be held. Our next scheduled vaccination clinic will be held Tuesday April 9<sup>th</sup> 2019 at Mercy Today from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm. For more information on future clinics please call FCDPHE at 719-276-7450 or view our Facebook page <http://www.facebook.com/FCDPHE>.

Hepatitis A vaccine is also available at Fremont County Public Health, at a doctor's offices and many retail pharmacies. People who need help paying for vaccinations should contact FCDPHE at 719-276-7450.

The vaccine is also recommended for:

- People with chronic (lifelong) liver diseases, such as cirrhosis, hepatitis B or hepatitis C, who have a higher risk of poor outcomes if infected.
- Children, who are routinely vaccinated between 12 and 23 months of age. Older children and adolescents can get the vaccine after 23 months.
- People traveling to countries where hepatitis A is common.
- People being treated with clotting-factor concentrates.
- Adults who have not been vaccinated previously and want to be protected against hepatitis A.

Good hygiene is also important in preventing hepatitis A spread. In addition to getting vaccinated, people should:

- Wash hands with soap and water after going to the bathroom and before eating or making food.
- Avoid having sex with anyone who has hepatitis A.
- **Not** share towels, toothbrushes, eating utensils, food, drinks, smokes or drug “works” with others.

Symptoms of hepatitis A include yellow skin and eyes, fever, fatigue, loss of appetite, nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain, dark urine and light-colored stools. Symptoms develop between two to six weeks after an exposure, and people can spread the virus to others before symptoms appear.

People who have general questions about hepatitis A can call CO-Help at 303-389-1687 or 1-877-462-2911, or email them at [COHELP@RMPDC.org](mailto:COHELP@RMPDC.org), for answers in English and Spanish.

For more information on hepatitis A, visit the [CDC website](#)

