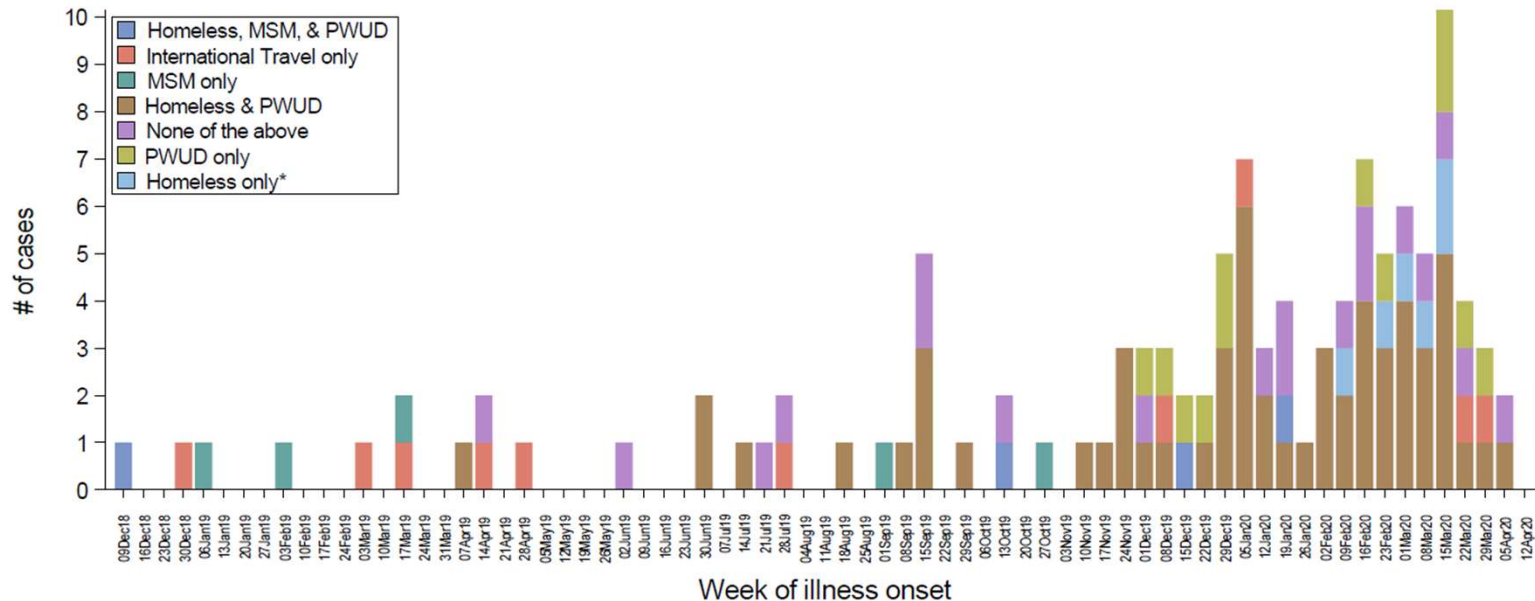


## Hepatitis A reports received since Jan 01, 2019

Updated on April 15, 2020 8:30 AM

Since January 1, 2019, Public Health has identified **116** confirmed cases of hepatitis A among King County residents, **74** of which have been identified since January 1, 2020 (typically we see **2** case by this time). We have identified **95** King County cases of locally-acquired hepatitis A infection associated with an outbreak among persons living homeless and/or persons who use drugs (PWUD). Since October 2017, PHSKC staff have provided **3575** doses of hepatitis A vaccine at **136** unique sites across King County for people at high risk of infection.

*Epi curve of all confirmed and suspect cases by risk factor, by week of illness onset*



Summary of demographic, clinical and exposure factors of confirmed and suspect cases since Jan 2019

	Total since Jan 2019		Outbreak Related		Not outbreak related	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
<b>Sex at birth</b>						
Male	81	70%	69	73%	12	57%
Female	35	30%	26	27%	9	43%
<b>Age summary</b>						
Mean	43	.	42	.	43	.
Median	41	.	41	.	45	.
Min	9	.	23	.	9	.
Max	78	.	78	.	72	.
<b>Age group</b>						
<1 years old	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
1 - 10 years old	1	1%	0	0%	1	5%
11 - 18 years old	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
19 - 29 years old	14	12%	11	12%	3	14%
30 - 39 years old	36	31%	31	33%	5	24%
40 - 49 years old	33	28%	28	29%	5	24%
50 - 59 years old	18	16%	15	16%	3	14%
60 - 69 years old	11	9%	8	8%	3	14%
70 years old +	3	3%	2	2%	1	5%
<b>Clinical</b>						
Hospitalized for illness	71	61%	65	68%	6	29%
Died from illness	1	1%	1	1%	0	0%

Summary of risk factors of confirmed and suspect cases since Jan 2019

	Total since Jan 2019		Outbreak Related		Not outbreak related	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
<b>Living homeless</b>						
Within last 12 months	50	43%	49	52%	1	5%
Within exposure period	48	41%	48	51%	0	0%
Unspecified timeframe*	18	16%	18	19%	0	0%
<b>IVDU</b>						
Within last 12 months	58	50%	57	60%	1	5%
Within exposure period	51	44%	50	53%	1	5%
Unspecified timeframe*	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
<b>Any illicit drug use</b>						
Within last 12 months	76	66%	74	78%	2	10%
Within exposure period	68	59%	66	69%	2	10%
Unspecified timeframe*	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
<b>MSM status</b>						
MSM	9	8%	4	4%	5	24%
Not MSM or unknown	107	92%	91	96%	16	76%
<b>Incarcerated</b>						
Within exposure period	5	4%	5	5%	0	0%
Within last 12 months	19	16%	19	20%	0	0%

\*Timeline unspecific means that homelessness was indicated in medical notes, HMIS, or other reports but no timeline was verified

# Hepatitis A

Public Health  
Seattle & King County 

## HEALTH WARNING FOR PEOPLE LIVING HOMELESS (Seattle)

### WHAT IS HEPATITIS A?

Hepatitis A (hep A) is a virus that spreads easily. Many people don't know they have hep A so they spread it without knowing.

It can cause severe liver disease that can last for months.

Sometimes people die from hep A.

Hep A has been spreading in people living homeless in the U.S.



### HOW DOES IT SPREAD?

Hep A is in the poop of someone with hep A. If they haven't washed their hands after using the toilet, tiny bits of poop can get on things they touch. Hep A spreads from:



Touching objects or eating food that someone with hep A handled



Having sex with someone who has hep A



Sharing needles, pipes, or other items to take drugs



**Wash your hands with soap and water** after using the toilet, and before you cook or eat! Soap and water work best, but if they aren't available, use alcohol-based hand gel.

### HOW CAN YOU PREVENT HEPATITIS A?



Don't share food, drinks, or smokes with other people



Don't have sex with someone who has hep A



Use your own towels, toothbrush and utensils



Get the hep A vaccine

### SYMPTOMS OF HEPATITIS A



Fever



Fatigue



Vomiting



No appetite



Jaundice  
(yellow eyes  
& skin)



Dark pee,  
pale poop,  
diarrhea

Some people with hep A don't have any symptoms

**If you think you might have hep A, see your doctor or go to the hospital**

### YOU CAN PROTECT YOURSELF FROM HEPATITIS A

Get a free hep A vaccine shot at these locations:

**Pioneer Square Clinic**  
206 3rd Ave S  
Open Mon—Fri, daytime

**Ballard NeighborCare Clinic**  
1753 NW 56th St (at the Nyer Urness House)  
Open Mon—Fri, daytime

**3rd Ave Center**  
2028 3rd Ave (next to Angeline's Day Center)  
Open Mon—Fri, daytime

**45th St Youth Clinic (ages 12-26)**  
1629 N 45th St  
Open Weds & Thurs, 6-9 PM

**Boren Clinic**  
1930 Boren Ave (at the Sobering Center)  
Open Mon—Fri, mornings only

**ICHS—International District**  
720 8th Ave S  
Open Mon-Fri, 8:30-5

**Robert Clewis Needle Exchange**  
2124 4th Ave  
Open Mon—Fri; Sat 2-4 PM

**ICHS—Holly Park**  
3818 S Othello St  
Open Mon-Fri, 8:30-5

**Downtown Public Health Clinic**  
2124 4th Ave  
Open Mon-Fri, daytime

**Mobile Medical Van**  
Various locations in Seattle, Tues—Fri  
For locations, check: [Kingcounty.gov/mobilemed](http://Kingcounty.gov/mobilemed)

**Hepatitis Education Project**  
1621 S Jackson St  
Open Tues & Thurs, 1-5 PM, or by appointment

Most pharmacies offer the hep A shots if you have an insurance card

More information from Healthcare for the Homeless Network: [www.kingcounty.gov/hch](http://www.kingcounty.gov/hch)

Public Health  
Seattle & King County 

Thanks to San Diego Health and Human Services for adaptation of their materials.

Last updated: 7/30/2019

## HOW TO CLEAN UP VOMIT, DIARRHEA & BLOOD

### 1. PROTECT YOURSELF



Wear disposable plastic or rubber gloves



Wear a disposable mask and an apron if available.



Use paper towels.



Wash hands with soap and warm water after cleaning.

### 2. REMOVE VOMIT OR DIARRHEA RIGHT AWAY



Use an absorbent material like kitty litter or baking soda on upholstery and carpets. Dispose of contaminated materials in plastic bag. Do not vacuum.



### 3. CLEAN ALL SOILED & NEARBY SURFACES WITH SOAPY WATER



Door knobs



Toilet handles



Machine-wash clothing

### 4. DISINFECT SURFACES WITH BLEACH SOLUTION



If using 8.25% bleach: mix 1 cup bleach with 1 gallon water.  
If using 5.25% bleach: mix 1.5 cups bleach with 1 gallon water.



Apply bleach mix, leave for 1-2 minutes



After applying bleach, rinse all surfaces with water.

For more information: [www.kingcounty.gov/hepA](http://www.kingcounty.gov/hepA)

## CLEANING TO KILL HEPATITIS A

Public Health  
Seattle & King County 

- **ATTENTION: A person living homeless in King County was recently hospitalized with hepatitis A (hep A)**
- Hep A is very contagious
- Special cleaning and disinfecting is important to prevent hep A from spreading

### DISINFECT SURFACES THAT PEOPLE TOUCH A LOT



All bathroom surfaces



All kitchen surfaces



Anything else people touch a lot

### USE BLEACH + WATER TO KILL HEPATITIS A



Most cleaning products don't kill hep A



Bleach kills hep A. Always mix bleach with water

To check if a different product kills hep A, read the label. The product label should say "effective against hepatitis A" or "effective against feline calicivirus." Follow instruction on the label.

### HOW TO USE BLEACH TO DISINFECT FOR HEPATITIS A



1. **Protect yourself from the bleach:** Wear gloves and a mask



2. **Get air flowing:** Open windows or use a fan



3. **Clean surfaces:** Use soapy water



4. **Disinfect surfaces:**  
If using 8.25% bleach: mix 1 cup bleach with 1 gallon water.  
If using 5.25% bleach: mix 1.5 cups bleach with 1 gallon water.



5. **Let it sit:**  
Apply bleach mix, leave for 1-2 minutes



6. **Rinse with water.**  
Dry with paper towel or air dry

**Don't save your bleach + water mix. It stops working after 24 hours.**

For more information: [www.kingcounty.gov/hepA](http://www.kingcounty.gov/hepA)