



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Board of Health Sidney-Shelby County

202 W. Poplar Street, Sidney, OH 45365

Steven J. Tostrick, MPH, REHS, RS
Health Commissioner

Phone: (937) 498-7249
Fax: (937) 498-7013
sschd@shelbycountyhealthdept.org
shelbycountyhealthdept.org

Date: 6/18/2018

Contact: Teri Greve, Infectious Disease Nurse

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Increase Cases of Hepatitis A

* * *

Ohio has seen an increase of Hepatitis A cases this year linked to certain risk factors. **There have been no Hepatitis A cases reported in Shelby County in 2018.** In 2017 there was one case and in 2016 there were two cases reported. The Sidney-Shelby County Health Department is encouraging people with known risk factors to get vaccinated.

Hepatitis A is a vaccine-preventable disease that can lead to liver damage. The disease usually spreads when a person ingests fecal matter- even in small amounts- from contact with objects, food, or drinks contaminated by the stool of an infected person. Hepatitis A can also spread through close personal contact with an infected person, such as through sex.

People at a greater risk for Hepatitis A include those who live or care for someone infected with the virus; travelers to countries where the virus is prevalent; men who have sex with men; people who use street drugs, whether they are injected or not; people with blood clotting factor disorders; people with chronic liver disease; and household members and other close contacts of adopted children newly arrived from countries where Hepatitis A is common.

Symptoms of Hepatitis A include feeling tired, low appetite, stomach pain, nausea, clay-colored stools, and jaundice. People with Hepatitis A can experience mild illness lasting a few weeks to a severe illness lasting several months. Most people who get Hepatitis A recover without any complications. Hepatitis A may lead to liver failure and death, although this is rare and occurs more commonly in adults older than 50 and in people who have other liver diseases.

The best way to prevent Hepatitis A is by getting the vaccine. Other ways to reduce risks are by washing hands thoroughly with soap and warm water after using the restroom, changing diapers and before and after handling food.

Individuals who are at risk or those concerned about Hepatitis A should contact their doctor, healthcare provider or the Sidney-Shelby County Health Department at 937-498-7249. People who know that they have been exposed to someone with Hepatitis A should contact their healthcare provider or the Sidney-Shelby County Health Department to discuss post-exposure vaccination options. Individuals who experience symptoms of Hepatitis A should contact their healthcare provider.