

MEDIA RELEASE

Information **Advisory** **Warning** **Update**

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St. Clair County Health Department Encourages Food Industry Workers to Protect Themselves Against Hepatitis A – Walk-In Clinics Extended

In an effort to meet the needs of those at risk of hepatitis A during the current outbreak in Southeast Michigan, the St. Clair County Health Department will be extending our vaccine walk-in days through December 20, 2017. While supplies last, anyone needing a vaccination for hepatitis A or the flu can visit the main office located at 3415 28th Street in Port Huron on Mondays from 10:00am – 6:00pm or Wednesdays 8:00am – 4:00pm. Additional vaccination needs will also be addressed that time. Hepatitis A is a vaccine preventable disease.

This outbreak appears to be spreading person-to-person through injecting and non-injecting drug use, sexual activity, and close contact among household members. There has also been a significant increase in the number of food workers infected. Hepatitis A is easily transmitted by consuming food or beverages handled by someone infected with the virus. Infected persons can also be contagious for up to two weeks before showing any symptoms. Due to these circumstances, ill food workers have the ability to infect a large number of people. State and local health officials are recommending food industry employees get vaccinated.

Many insurances cover the cost of the vaccine. Those uninsured or underinsured may qualify for reduced cost based on income. Vaccine supply updates will be available on our website, social media, and hepatitis A informational hotline at (810) 966-4162. Visit our website www.scchealth.co for updates or follow us on social media @scchdmi.

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