

**Ongoing Hepatitis A Virus
Outbreak in Kentucky**

Since August 1, 2017, the Kentucky Department for Public Health has identified 629 cases of acute hepatitis A, a liver disease caused by hepatitis A virus. A sharp increase in Kentucky cases since August 2017 has prompted declaration of a statewide outbreak in Nov. 2017. Viral sequencing has linked several outbreak-associated cases in Kentucky with outbreaks in California and Utah.

Statistics as of May 26, 2018:

- Total Infections: 674
- Hospitalizations: 422
- Deaths: 6
- Counties with cases: 43
(36% of KY counties)

**Kentucky Managed
Medicaid Pharmacy Plans:**

Anthem Medicaid
1-855-661-2028

Aetna Better Health of KY
1-855-300-5528

Humana Caresource
1-855-852-7005

Passport Health Plan
1-800-578-0775

Wellcare of Kentucky
1-877-389-9457

**Kentucky Fee-For-Service
Pharmacy Plan:**

Magellan Health
1-800-432-7005

Help Protect Medicaid Recipients from Hepatitis A!

The Commonwealth is currently experiencing a large and fast-growing outbreak of hepatitis A. In April, the Department for Public Health (DPH) recommended that all children and adults in Jefferson, Bullitt, Hardin, Greenup, Carter and Boyd counties receive the hepatitis A vaccine (HAV). Hepatitis A is a preventable illness; the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has recommended HAV for all children since 2006. As of July 1, 2018 all public school students must be immunized against hepatitis A. Please assist Kentucky Medicaid members in finding the appropriate site of care to receive HAV based on their age and enrollment.



Where is HAV covered for Medicaid recipients?

Age	Fee-for-Service	Managed Medicaid
19 and older	-Medical provider ONLY (PCP or health department)	-Medical provider; OR -Pharmacy
Under 19	Vaccines for Children participating physician, clinic or pharmacy	

- Adult *Fee-for-Service (FFS)* members must receive HAV from their primary care provider (PCP) or local health department; it is not covered at a pharmacy.
- As of May 9, 2018 adults with *Managed Medicaid* plans can receive HAV through either the medical or pharmacy benefit.
- All Medicaid-eligible *children* (under age 19) should receive HAV through a Vaccines for Children (VFC) participating provider.
 - Note: Pharmacy providers may administer vaccines via protocol to pediatric patients age 9 years and older with parental consent. However, not all pharmacies offer this service.

Hepatitis A Vaccine Products and Dosing

Currently, there are 2 single-antigen hepatitis A vaccines available in the US: Havrix[®] and Vaqta[®]. Both are covered at the sites of care discussed above. Both products are given as intramuscular (IM) injections in the thigh (young children) or deltoid muscle (older children and adults). Dosing is similar between the 2 products and each requires a booster dose at least 6 months after the initial vaccine. Be sure to counsel patients on the importance of receiving the second dose and when possible schedule a follow-up appointment for the booster dose.

HAV	Volume per dose	# Doses	Booster Schedule
<i>Havrix</i> [®]	Age 1-18: 0.5 mL Age 19+: 1 mL	2	6-12 months after initial dose
<i>Vaqta</i> [®]	Age 1-18: 0.5 mL Age 19+: 1 mL	2	6-18 months after initial dose

Additional information about hepatitis A is available from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) at <https://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/hav/index.htm>.