

Viral Hepatitis: A Growing Concern

Hepatitis C has been prominent in the news because of the increasing infection rates due to the opiate epidemic. A high percentage of infections with the Hepatitis C virus is caused by individuals sharing needles to inject opiates. There has also been a multi-state outbreak of Hepatitis A disease this summer, including Ohio. Along with these emerging problems, Hepatitis B continues to be a concern, especially when individuals do not receive the vaccine or do not complete the series of injections necessary for immunization. To help clear up what you can do to help ACPH stop the spread of viral Hepatitis infections please review the following information:

	Hepatitis A	Hepatitis B	Hepatitis C
How is it transmitted?	Eating food or drinking water that has human waste in it. It happens more than you would think. Travel out of the US is also a high risk.	Most often by having unsafe sex. Also through contact with someone else's infected blood*. Moms with hepatitis B can give it to their babies during birth.	Most often through contact with someone else's infected blood*, or by having unsafe sex (not using a condom).
Can it kill me?	Rare	Yes	Yes
How long can it last?	Up to 6 months.	Your whole life.	Your whole life.
How does it hurt me?	Attacks your liver.	Attacks your liver.	Attacks your liver.
What are the symptoms?	Can feel like the flu.	Usually none. Can feel like the flu.	Usually none. Can feel like the flu.
Is there a vaccine?	✓ YES	✓ YES	✗ NO
How can I prevent it?	GET THE VACCINE!	GET THE VACCINE!	Avoid contact with anything that might have blood on it. Use a condom when having sex. *
How do I know if I already have the virus?	Blood test	Blood Test	Blood Test+

Source: American Liver Foundation
liverfoundation.org

*Sharing toothbrushes, nail clippers, razors and needles and other drug works can spread Hep B and Hep C
+The highest rate of Hep C occurs in people born between 1945-1965. If you are this age you should get tested.

Vaccinations are available at ACPH for Hepatitis A and Hepatitis B. There is no vaccine made for Hepatitis C. Click the links below for more information and to schedule an appointment:

[Schedule An Appointment](#)

[Vaccination Information: Facts & Resources, 2017](#)

ALLEN COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH
219 E. MARKET STREET
LIMA, OH 45801
419-228-4457
allencountypublichealth.org

MONDAY - FRIDAY
8:00 AM TO 4:30 PM

Prevent. Promote. Protect.

ACPH Prevents Negative Health Outcomes

Free **Project DAWN kits** are available to anyone to reverse an opiate drug overdose.

Portable cribs are provided to qualifying families for a **safe sleep space**.

Moms & Babies First staff meet with pregnant, African-American women throughout their pregnancy to reduce poor birth outcomes.

Children & adults are **immunized** against life-threatening diseases.

ACPH Promotes Positive Health Behaviors

Nutrition education and supplemental food are provided to qualifying mothers and children through **WIC**.

ACPH collaborates with city and county officials to **promote safe bicycle and pedestrian traffic** and to encourage **community gardening**.

allencountypublichealth.org provides links to resources on chronic diseases, healthier behaviors and public health laws.

ACPH Protects Allen County Residents

Registered nurses follow up on all reportable diseases to **stop the spread of disease** and protect the rest of our community.

ACPH Registered Sanitarians regularly **inspect** area restaurants, pools, campgrounds and sewage systems to protect against disease.

ACPH staff conduct **routine exercises** to practice responses to public health emergencies.

Allen County Public Health: Service Statistics

Clinic & Community Services	2017 as of June 30th	2018 as of June 30th
Immunizations Given	2,566	2,324
Vaccines For Children	1,247	1,097
State Funded	68	80
Private Pay/Private Insurance	1,251	1,147
Family Planning Visits	608	525
Family Planning New Patients	134	172
BCMH Caseload	493	604
WIC Monthly Caseload	2,512	2,469
Moms & Babies First Home Visits	616	801
Communicable Diseases	685	717
TB Skin Tests	377	419
HIV Tests/ # of positive results	467/0	360/1
Chlamydia	303	267
Gonorrhea	73	106
Syphilis	2	2
Influenza Hospitalizations	152	184
Hepatitis C	57	63
Viral Meningitis	4	11
Project DAWN Kits distributed	75	160
Pack N Plays Distributed (Safe Sleep)	94	146

Communicable Diseases	2017 as of June 30th	2018 as of June 30th
Class A: immediate response needed	0	0
Class B: timely response needed	656	689
Class C: response to outbreaks only	29	28

Environmental Health	2017 as of June 30th	2018 as of June 30th
Inspections		
Water Systems	89	72
Sewage Systems	1,037	425
Recreational Camps/Parks	25	29
Manufactured Home Parks	33	34
Public Pools and Spas	61	69
Open Bathing Areas	5	7
Schools	57	64
Plumbing Systems	542	500
Food Service Operations	926	1,112
Food Vending	34	*Included w/ Food Service
Tattoo/Body Piercing Service	18	7
Investigations		
Animal Bites	208	176
Environmental Complaints	271	45
Smoke-Free Complaints	7	*included with Environmental

Vital Statistics	2017 as of June 30th	2018 as of June 30th
Allen County Resident Births	594	604
Allen County Resident Deaths	609	634
Birth Certificates Issued	3,202	3,067
Death Certificates Issued	2,911	3,402