

## HEPATITIS A

Last revised August 5, 2011

### I. IDENTIFICATION

- A. **CLINICAL DESCRIPTION:** An illness caused by the hepatitis A virus (HAV) typically characterized by abrupt onset of fever, malaise, nausea, abdominal discomfort, fatigue, and elevated serum aminotransferase levels; often followed within a few days by jaundice. Severity of illness is highly variable and is typically milder or asymptomatic in young children.
- B. **REPORTING CRITERIA:** Clinical diagnosis initially; laboratory confirmation required to meet case definition.
- C. **LABORATORY CRITERIA FOR CONFIRMATION:** Positive anti-HAV IgM serology
- D. **WISCONSIN CASE DEFINITION:** A person with a clinically compatible illness that is laboratory confirmed **OR** an asymptomatic person who is IgM anti-HAV positive and is linked epidemiologically to a confirmed case of hepatitis A

### II. ACTIONS REQUIRED / PREVENTION MEASURES

- A. **WISCONSIN DISEASE SURVEILLANCE CATEGORY I:** Report **IMMEDIATELY BY TELEPHONE** to the patient's local health department upon identification of a confirmed or suspected case. The local health department shall then notify the state epidemiologist **immediately** of any confirmed or suspected cases. Within 24 hours submit a case report electronically through the Wisconsin Electronic Disease Surveillance System (WEDSS), by mail or fax using an Acute and Communicable Disease Case Report ([F-44151](#)), or by other means.
- B. **EPIDEMIOLOGY REPORTS REQUIRED:**
  - *Electronically* – Report through WEDSS, including appropriate disease-specific tabs  
OR
  - *Paper Copy* – Acute and Communicable Diseases Case Report ([F-44151](#))  
Viral Hepatitis case report form
- C. **PUBLIC HEALTH INTERVENTIONS:**

In accordance with Wisconsin Administrative rule DHS 145.05, local public health should follow the methods of control recommended in the current edition of *Control of Communicable Diseases Manual*, edited by David L. Heymann, published by the American Public Health Association.

For further details regarding disease investigation, prophylaxis, and control measures, refer to the DPH publication *Hepatitis A: A Handbook for Public Health Personnel*

### III. CONTACTS FOR CONSULTATION

- A. **LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT – REGIONAL OFFICES – TRIBAL AGENCIES:**  
<http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/localhealth/index.htm>
- B. **BCDER / COMMUNICABLE DISEASE EPIDEMIOLOGY SECTION:** (608) 267-9003

C. WISCONSIN STATE LABORATORY OF HYGIENE / VIROLOGY (608) 262-3185

**IV. RELATED REFERENCES**

- Heymann DL, ed. Viral Hepatitis A . In: *Control of Communicable Diseases Manual*. 19th ed. Washington, DC: American Public Health Association, 2008:278-284
- Pickering LK, ed. Hepatitis A. In: *Red Book: 2009 Report of the Committee on Infectious Diseases*. 28th ed. Elk Grove Village, IL: American Academy of Pediatrics, 2009:329-337
- Wisconsin Division of Public Health. *Hepatitis A: A Handbook for Public Health Personnel*