



Communicable Disease Case Reporting and Investigation Protocol **HEPATITIS A**

I. IDENTIFICATION AND DEFINITION OF CASES

- 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. Laboratory Criteria:**
Laboratory-confirmed hepatitis A requires a positive anti-HAV IgM serologic test.
- C. Wisconsin Surveillance Case Definition:**
Confirmed: 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. REPORTING

- A. Wisconsin Notifiable Disease Category I – Methods for Reporting:** This disease shall be reported **IMMEDIATELY BY TELEPHONE** to the patient's local health officer or to the local health officer's designee upon identification of a case or suspected case, per Wis. Admin. Code § [DHS 145.04 \(3\) \(a\)](#). In addition to the immediate report, complete and fax, mail or electronically report an Acute and Communicable Diseases Case Report (DHS [F-44151](#)) to the address on the form, or enter the data into the Wisconsin Electronic Disease Surveillance System, within 24 hours.
- B. Responsibility for Reporting:** According to Wis. Admin. Code § [DHS 145.04\(1\)](#), persons licensed under Wis. Stat. ch. [441](#) or [448](#), laboratories, health care facilities, teachers, principals, or nurses serving a school or day care center, and any person who knows or suspects that a person has a communicable disease identified in [Appendix A](#).
- C. Clinical Criteria for Reporting:**
Clinical diagnosis initially; laboratory confirmation required to meet case definition.
- D. Laboratory Criteria for Reporting:** Positive anti-HAV IgM serology

III. CASE INVESTIGATION

- A. Responsibility for case investigation:** It is the responsibility of the local health department (LHD) to investigate or arrange for investigation of suspected or confirmed cases as soon as is reasonably possible. A case investigation may include information collected by phone, in person, in writing, or through review of medical records or communicable disease report forms, as necessary and appropriate.

A source investigation and an investigation of persons whom the case-patient may have infected is required. For further details regarding disease investigation, prophylaxis, and control measures, refer to the DPH publication *Hepatitis A: A Handbook for Public Health Personnel* at: <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/publications/p01745.pdf>

- B. Required Documentation:**
1. Complete the WEDSS disease incident investigation report, including appropriate, disease-specific tabs.
 2. Upon completion of investigation, set WEDSS disease incident process status to "Sent to State."
- C. Additional Investigation Responsibilities:**
1. Maintain contact with BCD staff regarding the investigation.
 2. Exclusion of patient from high risk occupations may be necessary.
 3. Identify close contacts who may need prophylaxis.
 4. Because of the frequency of falsely positive anti-HAV IgM results, consult with BCD staff regarding the advisability of repeating hepatitis A serology at the SLH and coordinate specimen submission.

IV. PUBLIC HEALTH INTERVENTIONS AND PREVENTION MEASURES

- A. In accordance with Wis. Admin. Code § [DHS 145.05](#), local public health agencies should follow the methods of control recommended in the current editions of *Control of Communicable Diseases Manual*, edited by David L. Heymann, published by the American Public Health Association, and the American Academy of Pediatrics' *Red Book: Report of the Committee on Infectious Diseases*, unless otherwise specified by the state epidemiologist.
- B. For further details regarding disease investigation, questionnaires, prophylaxis, and control measures, refer to the DPH publication *Hepatitis A: A Handbook for Public Health Personnel* at:
<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/publications/p01745.pdf>

V. CONTACTS FOR CONSULTATION

- A. Local health departments and tribal health agencies:
<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/lh-depts/index.htm>
- B. BCD, Communicable Diseases Epidemiology Section: 608-267-9003
- C. Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene: 1-800-862-1013

VI. RELATED REFERENCES

- A. Heymann DL, ed. *Hepatitis A*. In: *Control of Communicable Diseases Manual*. 20th ed. Washington, DC: American Public Health Association, 2015: 61-63.
- B. Pickering LK, ed. *Hepatitis A*. In: *Red Book: 2015 Report of the Committee on Infectious Diseases*. 30th ed. Elk Grove Village, IL: American Academy of Pediatrics, 2015: 253-254.
- C. Wisconsin Division of Public Health. *Hepatitis A: A Handbook for Public Health Personnel* at:
<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/publications/p01745.pdf>
- D. Wisconsin Division of Public Health. *Hepatitis A Worksheet Confirmed and Suspected Cases*:
<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/forms/f02241.pdf>