

Hepatitis A (Hep A) Vaccine Follow Up Clinic Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Clinic Information

Saturday September 13, 2008

UB Center for Tomorrow

Maple Road and Flint Road

Amherst, New York 14260

**Head of Household Last Name
begins with:**

A - Ca 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

Ce - F 12:00 pm - 2:00 pm

G - J 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm

K - Maz 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm

Sunday September 14, 2008

UB Center for Tomorrow

Maple Road and Flint Road

Amherst, New York 14260

**Head of Household Last Name
begins with:**

Mc - P 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

Q - S 12:00 pm - 2:00 pm

T - Z 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Eligibility (Individuals must meet **BOTH** of the following requirements.)

1. You received your first dose of Hep A vaccine at ECC North Campus in February 2008.
Note: Hep A vaccine was given in the arm. If you or a household member received a shot in the buttocks area, then you received Immune Globulin (Ig) and you should NOT attend the upcoming clinic.
AND
2. You are not pregnant on the day of the immunization.

FAQs

Where can I find more information about the upcoming Hep A clinic?

Please go to the Erie County Department of Health's (ECDOH) website at www.erie.gov/health.

Why do I need a 2nd dose of the Hep A vaccine?

The first dose of Hep A vaccine you received in February 2008 provided adequate protection against any Hep A virus to which you may have been exposed at that time. Federal guidelines suggest a 2nd dose of Hep A vaccine should be considered at least six months following the first to provide optimal long-term protection against any future Hep A exposure. In addition, your participation in this exercise will further test the ECDOH & their partner's abilities to provide mass vaccinations and help them evaluate a different approach to this challenge.

I didn't receive a letter but I received the vaccine at ECC North in February 2008. What should I do?

If someone in your household received a letter and you did not, please make every attempt to attend the clinic with that person.

Why didn't everyone in my household who attended the first clinic receive a letter?

In order to save postage, the ECDOH tried to consolidate the mailing to each household. In addition, members of your household that received Ig were not sent letters because they should NOT attend the upcoming clinic.

Do I need proof that I attended the clinic at ECC North Campus in February 2008?

Please bring this letter with you to the clinic as it will serve as your admittance into the clinic.

What should I do if I received Immune Globulin (Ig) In February 2008?

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Do NOT come to this clinic. You should, however, consider contacting your health care provider to inquire whether you should receive the 2 dose Hepatitis A vaccine series from your health care provider. This would only be indicated if your health care provider felt you will be at risk of exposure to Hep A in the future.

Why did I receive Ig instead of Hep A vaccine?

You were given Ig instead of Hepatitis A vaccine at the clinic in February 2008 for one of the following reasons:

- You were either less than 1 year of age or over 40 years of age in February 2008. The vaccine was not the first recommended treatment in these age groups following an exposure.
 - You were allergic to a component of the vaccine.
 - You have a chronic or underlying medical condition that does not allow you to receive Hep A vaccine.
- Or,
- You were pregnant at that time.

You should consider contacting your health care provider to inquire whether you should receive the 2 dose Hepatitis A vaccine series from your health care provider. Ig only provides temporary protection lasting about 3 months while vaccine provides long-term protection. This would only be indicated if your health care provider felt you will be at risk of exposure to Hep A in the future.

What is Ig?

Immune globulin (Ig) contains antibodies that destroy the hepatitis A virus (HAV) thus preventing infection. It provides short-term protection against disease lasting about 3 months.

I have turned 41 since the clinic in February 2008. Can I still receive the vaccine?

Yes.

I don't know which one I received (Hep A or Ig)?

Hep A vaccine was given in the arm. If you or a household member received a shot in the buttocks area at the clinic at ECC North in February 2008, then you received Immune Globulin (IG) and you should NOT attend the upcoming clinic.

I can't make it either day of the clinic. What should I do?

You should contact your health care provider to inquire about receiving your second dose of Hepatitis A vaccine from your health care provider.

I received the Hep A vaccine at my primary care provider's office in February 2008 because I consumed the Wegmans produce in question and because the lines at the ECDOH clinic were too long, I couldn't make it, etc. Can I come to this clinic for my second vaccine?

No. You should go back to your primary care provider to get the second dose of Hep A vaccine.

My doctor doesn't have, or can't get, the Hep A Vaccine. What should I do?

You may contact one of the following clinics that might offer Hepatitis A vaccination. Please note, that there will likely be a charge for this service and the charge may vary by location. A list of travel vaccine clinics is available on the Western New York Adult Immunization Coalition (WNYAIC) at www.erie.gov/immunizewny.

IMMUNIZATION/TRAVEL VACCINE CLINICS

Erie County Department of Health (ECDOH)
1500 Broadway
Buffalo, NY 14212
716-891-7711

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Independent Nursing Care
1038 Davis Road
West Falls, NY 14170
716-655-8776 ext. 308

Jericho Road Family Practice
Dr. Glick
184 Barton Street
Buffalo, NY 14213
716-881-6191

Maxim Health Systems
741 Delaware Ave., Suite 110
Buffalo, NY 14209
866-844-9257

Travelers Health & Immunization Center
297 Spindrift Drive
Williamsville, NY 14221
716-631-0929

UEMS Occupational & Travel Health
Erie County Medical Center/Emergency Medicine Department
462 Grider Street
Buffalo, NY 14215
716-898-4153

I don't have a health care provider. Where should I go?

In the case that a person doesn't have a doctor, they can call the Erie County Department of Health at (716) 891-7711 to become a patient of our primary care clinic.

I will be pregnant during this clinic. What should I do?

You should NOT attend the upcoming clinic and you should speak with your health care provider about receiving the second dose of Hep A vaccine *after* you have delivered your baby.

I was pregnant in February and received the first dose of Hep A vaccine. Why can't I receive the second dose at the upcoming clinic?

The risk from the Hep A vaccine during pregnancy is minimal. Therefore, it was offered to pregnant women in February because the risk of potential exposure to Hep A infection was greater than any possible side effects from the Hep A vaccine. However, since there is currently no risk to you from Hep A exposure, the risk from the Hep A vaccine now exceeds the risk from any Hep A infection. Therefore, you should NOT attend the upcoming clinic; and, you should speak with your health care provider about receiving the second dose of Hep A vaccine *after* you have delivered your baby.

What do you mean by a "drive-through" clinic?

You will be directed to drive through the clinic while staying in your vehicle. When you get to the actual vaccination area, you may be asked to step out of your car to receive the vaccination in your arm. We encourage all of your household members who are eligible for vaccination to attend in a single vehicle. Also, please wear a short sleeve shirt to enable easier access to your upper arm area. Please ensure that your vehicle has sufficient gas so you do not stall in line.

What should I wear?

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Please wear a short sleeve shirt to enable easier access to your upper arm area.

I can't come during my "assigned" time based upon the first letter of my last name. Is that ok?

To allow for a smooth transition through this clinic, please make every attempt to come during the date and time that coincides with the head of household's last name. If you can't make it during this time, you may come any time during the clinic hours, however, you may have to wait longer.

How long will this drive-through process take?

The Hep A drive-through clinic is a new process for ECDOH and its partners and your participation is greatly appreciated. We hope that the wait will not be very long but we encourage you to prepare the passengers of your vehicle for a potential wait by bringing snacks, bottled water, and activities for children.

I am homebound. How can I receive the vaccination?

You should contact your health care provider to discuss your situation.

Will I be required to pay for the vaccine at this clinic?

No. Because the ECDOH was able to secure vaccine at no cost to test this new mass vaccination approach, there will be no cost for the second dose of Hep A vaccine if you come to this clinic provided that you meet all of the qualifications (received 1st dose at ECC North in February 2008 and will not be pregnant during the upcoming clinic in September.) You may be charged for the vaccine and administration if you go elsewhere to receive it since we cannot give or administer this free vaccine in any other setting.

Are there any side effects of the Hep A vaccination?

The risk of Hepatitis A vaccine causing serious harm, or death, is extremely small. Getting Hepatitis A vaccine is much safer than getting the disease. Mild soreness may occur at the site where the shot was given. Other side effects can be viewed at www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vpd-vac/hepa/default.htm.

What is Hepatitis A?

Hepatitis A is a liver infection caused by the Hepatitis A virus.

What are the signs & symptoms of Hepatitis A infection?

Some persons, particularly young children, have no symptoms at all. When symptoms are present, they usually occur abruptly, can range from mild to severe, and can include the following:

- Fever
- Tiredness
- Loss of appetite
- Nausea
- Abdominal discomfort
- Diarrhea
- Dark urine
- Jaundice

If I have symptoms of Hepatitis A what should I do?

Call your personal health care provider immediately.

What is the incubation period for Hepatitis A (Period of time between infection and the appearance of signs and symptoms)?

The average incubation period for Hepatitis A is 28 days, but the range can be from 15 to 50 days.

If I already had Hepatitis A, can I get it again?

Once you have had Hepatitis A, you cannot get it again.

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How is Hepatitis A spread?

The most common way the Hepatitis A virus is spread in the United States is through the fecal-oral route (i.e., ingestion of something that has been contaminated with the feces of an infected person.) The most common way this virus is spread from one person to another person is from close personal contact with an infected household member or sex partner.

How is Hepatitis A prevented?

Hepatitis A vaccine is the best protection. Immune globulin (Ig) offers short-term protection against hepatitis A and can be given either immediately before or within 2 weeks after coming in contact with the Hepatitis A virus. Always wash your hands with soap and water especially after using the bathroom, changing a diaper, and before preparing and eating food. Good personal hygiene and proper sanitation can help prevent Hepatitis A.

How long does Hepatitis A virus survive outside the body? How can the virus be killed?

Hepatitis A virus can live outside the body for months, depending on the environmental conditions. The virus is killed by heating to 185 degrees F (85 degrees C) for one minute. However, the virus can still be spread from cooked food if it is contaminated after cooking. Adequate chlorination of water, as recommended in the United States, kills Hepatitis A virus that enters the water supply.