

Hepatitis A Cases in Clark County

General Hepatitis A Information

Background

Hepatitis A is a contagious liver disease caused by hepatitis A virus (HAV). Hepatitis A outbreaks can be associated with childcare centers, babysitting settings, and households with young children. This disease is vaccine preventable.

Transmission & Risk

Hepatitis A is usually spread when a person ingests fecal matter from contact with objects, food, or drinks contaminated by the feces or stool or an infected person.

If one thinks they have been exposed to hepatitis A, promptly call your health care provider or local health department.

Symptoms & Complications

An infected person may not have any signs and symptoms of the disease. If symptoms are present, they usually occur abruptly and can include fever, tiredness, loss of appetite, nausea, vomiting, abdominal discomfort, dark urine, clay-colored bowel movements, joint pain, and jaundice. Symptoms last less than 2 months, with a few cases lasting 6 months. Symptoms occur 15-50 days after exposure, with an average of 28 days. The fatality rate is less than 0.1%.

Testing, Diagnosis, Treatment

A blood test is necessary to diagnose hepatitis A. There are two products used to prevent hepatitis A infection: immune globulin and hepatitis A vaccine. Most people are recommended to receive the hepatitis A vaccine. After the first injection, protection begins 2-to-4-weeks afterwards. After the second injection, there is long term protection.

The CDC recommends the hepatitis A vaccine for all children within the United States when they are at least one year of age.

More information can be found here: <https://odh.ohio.gov/know-our-programs/infectious-disease-control-manual/section3/section-3-hepatitis-a>

Clark County Related Discussion

The highest reported cases in Clark County was in 2019 (62 cases) and the lowest reported was in 2021 (2 cases). There is a 96.8% decrease in cases between 2019 and 2021. In 2019, there was a statewide hepatitis A outbreak. In the first quarter of 2019 (January, February, March), there were a total of 35 cases reported in Clark County.

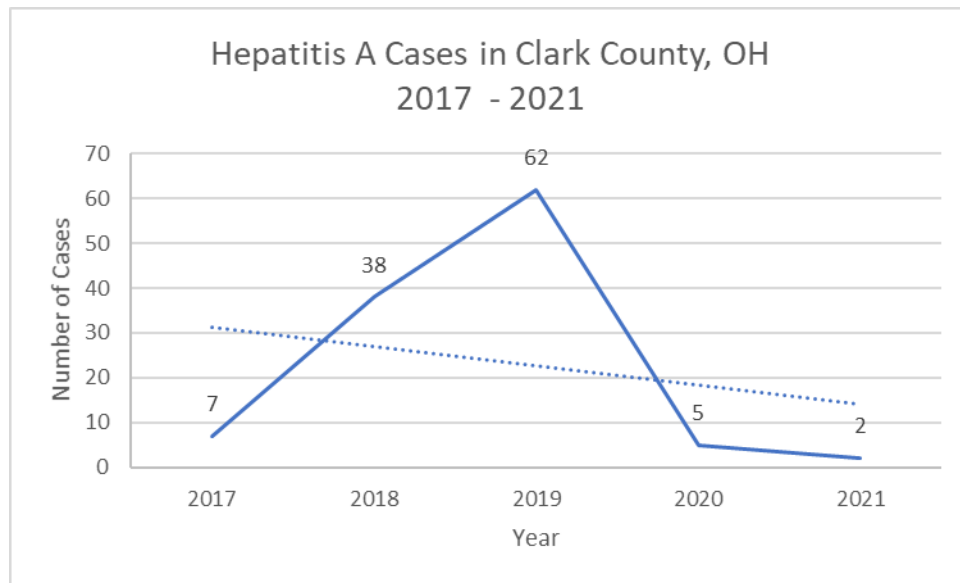


Figure 1 Hepatitis A Cases 2017-2021

	Q1 Grand Total	Q2 Grand Total	Q3 Grand Total	Q4 Grand Total
2017	1	4	0	2
2018	0	7	8	23
2019	35	15	8	4
2020	2	1	1	1
2021	0	1	1	0

Table 1 Hepatitis A Cases by Quarter

*Includes Suspected, Probable and Confirmed Cases.