



City of Meriden, Connecticut

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES



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PRESS RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Meriden Health and Human Services Department to Launch Free Hepatitis A Vaccine Initiative

(August 27, 2018) – The Meriden Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) is partnering with the Connecticut Department of Public Health (CT DPH) to launch free Hepatitis A vaccination clinics among at-risk populations in the city. While Connecticut has not seen a Hepatitis A outbreak among at-risk populations, including IV-drug users and persons experiencing homelessness, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has reported an increase of Hepatitis A in at-risk populations nationally.

“While Meriden – or Connecticut – has not seen an outbreak of Hepatitis A so far, we are going to be proactive in providing the vaccine free of charge to those most at-risk, as well as persons who work with the target populations,” said Lea Crown, Director of Health and Human Services.

Starting Monday, August 27, staff will be collaborating with community agencies to coordinate vaccination clinics. Clinics will be held:

- Wednesday, August 29, from 10:00am to 11:00am at Rushford, 883 Paddock Avenue
- Tuesday, September 4 from 10:00am to 12:30pm at Meriden Soup Kitchen, 460 Broad Street

A list of additional clinics will be posted on the Health and Human Services website (www.meridenhealth.com). People who may be at-risk can also contact the MDHHS Clinic office at 203-630-4234 to receive the vaccine at no charge. MDHHS staff also encourages everyone to speak with their medical providers about Hepatitis A, their risk of infection, and the need for vaccination.

Hepatitis A is a virus that can be carried from an infected person’s hands and is spread by person-to-person contact or by contaminated food or drink. Symptoms include fever, fatigue, poor appetite, diarrhea, and abdominal discomfort. Proper personal hygiene and regular hand washing can reduce transmission.

Connecticut is not currently experiencing an active Hepatitis A virus outbreak with 6 reported to date in 2018, however, given the pattern of significant Hepatitis A outbreaks seen in others states, there is a concern that a similar outbreak could happen in Connecticut.



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If agencies are interested in collaborating with MDHHS on this initiative, please contact Stephanie Denya, Associate Director of Health, at 203-630-4223 or sdenya@meridentct.gov.

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