STATE HEALTH IN ACTION: CONTROLLING WIDESPREAD HEPATITIS A OUTBREAKS ACROSS THE NATION

As of Dec. 2, 2019, 30 states have experienced hepatitis A outbreaks in the last three years. The outbreaks are being sustained through person-to-person transmission from close contact with people who are infected, primarily in populations in which people use drugs and/or are experiencing homelessness. The cornerstone for hepatitis A prevention and control is vaccination. State health agencies are on the frontlines of the hepatitis A response, vaccinating groups at highest risk for acquiring or developing severe complications from infection, and pairing these efforts with other prevention and risk reduction strategies. Here is a summary of this critical work: