

ALLEGAN COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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Office Administration

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Bioterrorism Preparedness

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Personal Health

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Communicable Disease

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Resource Recovery

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For Immediate Release

April 27, 2018

Allegan County Health Department Responding to *Indiana State Department of Health Travel Advisory*

Allegan, MI - Earlier this week the Indiana State Department of Health put out a travel advisory press release for Indiana residents to get vaccinated if they plan on traveling to states experiencing hepatitis A outbreaks, including Michigan.

The Allegan County Health Department would like to stress that the Center for Disease and Prevention (CDC) has not given any travel restrictions for states with outbreaks.

Hepatitis A is not endemic (regularly found) in Michigan and the Indiana Advisory does not align with the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) or the CDC's hepatitis A vaccination recommendations.

Richard Tooker, MH, MD, Allegan County Medical Director states "It is safe to travel to Michigan". He goes on to clarify, "The risk of contracting hepatitis A is greatest in those with risk factors for the disease, which in Michigan include homelessness and drug abuse."

Dr. Tooker goes on to stress, "Getting vaccinated is the best way to prevent hepatitis A."

To address this outbreak, the Allegan County Health Department is working with community partners to increase hepatitis A vaccination efforts in homeless shelters, and rehabilitation facilities. Partnerships are also being developed with area Emergency Departments and the county jail.

For more information on Allegan County Health Department's hepatitis A vaccination efforts, contact Lisa Letts, RN, BSN, Personal Health Services Manager at 269-673-5411

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