

# Collaboration between Viral Hepatitis and Immunization Programs

NASTAD VLC

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# Georgia Viral Hepatitis Epidemiology Program

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- Organizationally, housed within the Office of Epidemiology, Acute Disease Epidemiology Section
- Integrated team that consists of
  - Surveillance and epidemiology
    - Hepatitis A
    - Hepatitis B
    - Hepatitis C
  - Prevention
  - Perinatal Hepatitis B Prevention Program
  - Perinatal Hepatitis C Surveillance and Case Management

# Georgia Immunization Program (GIP)

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- Organizationally, housed within the DPH Division of Clinical and Medical Services
- Supports the Perinatal Hepatitis B Prevention Program
- Manages vaccines funded by:
  - Federal Vaccines for Children (VFC) program
  - **Federal Section 317 immunization grant**
  - State CHIP (PeachCare for Kids®) program
- 317-vaccines available at DPH clinics statewide at no cost for those un-insured or under-insured
  - Admin fee for self-pay patients for non-Medicaid VFC and 317 vaccines (capped at \$21.93/injection)
  - No client should be refused vaccination with VFC, Section 317, or CHIP vaccine due to inability to pay the administration fee
- Health departments can bill insurance if patient is insured

# Eligibility for Federal Funded 317 Hepatitis A Vaccinations

<https://dph.georgia.gov/document/document/march-2023-vaccine-eligibility-criteria-pdf/download>

317 hepA vaccines can be used for any uninsured or under-insured individuals

Men having sex with men

Illegal drug users

Female partners of MSM

Persons who engage in sexual practices that could facilitate fecal-oral transmission of hepatitis A

Person with chronic liver disease, including hepatitis C

HIV-infected persons seeking HIV care services

Homeless adults

American Indians and Alaska natives

Persons 19 years of age and older, designated as eligible contacts to a documented case of hepatitis A disease

Persons who need to complete the series

Any unvaccinated adult who wants to be protected against hepatitis A virus

# Eligibility for Federal Funded 317 Hepatitis B Vaccinations

<https://dph.georgia.gov/document/document/march-2023-vaccine-eligibility-criteria-pdf/download>

317 vaccines can be used for any uninsured or under-insured individuals  
(2 dose or 3 dose hep B vaccine brands available for adults 19 yrs. or older)

Men having sex with men

Illegal drug users

Persons seeking STD/HIV clinic services, including HIV testing and counseling and HIV care services

Individuals with multiple partners (more than 1 partner in 6 months)

Persons recently diagnosed with an STD

Homeless adults

Persons seeking Family Planning clinic services

Sexual partners and household contacts of persons with acute and chronic HBV infection

Hemodialysis/transplant patients

Diabetics (Type I or Type II)

Persons who need to complete the series

Any unvaccinated adult who wants to be protected against hepatitis B virus

Persons 19 years of age and older with negative serology despite having 3 documented doses of hep b vaccine

# Adult Vaccine Providers (AVP) & 317-Vaccines for non-Public Health Providers

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- Available at all county health departments
- In addition to health departments, currently 81 non-public health providers have been enrolled as Adult Vaccine Providers (AVP) through the GIP
  - Should serve clients that are un-insured or under-insured
  - Must have infrastructure in place prior to being approved
    - Storage capacity, including digital data logger thermometers
    - Complete and sign Adult Vaccine Provider (AVP) agreement
    - Routine site visits by Immunization Program field staff
    - Monthly requirements to report their vaccine inventory on hand and the doses administered to un-insured/under-insured adults in the Georgia Registry for Immunization Transactions & Services (GRITS)
  - Can request adult hepA and hepB vaccines, as well as other adult recommended vaccines (Tdap, Meningococcal, Influenza, MMR, Pneumococcal, Varicella, HPV, Shingles, COVID-19, MPOX (*possibly coming soon*))

# Collaborations between Georgia Viral Hepatitis and Immunization Programs

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- Know key staff (AVP, immunization registry, special projects/education)
- Participation in Immunization meetings/conferences
- Hepatitis training recommendations for Immunization/nursing staff
- Partner for vaccine education efforts (i.e. vaccine clinics, Immunization Newsletter, public/provider education)
- Look for opportunities in grants/supplemental projects to integrate hepA/B vaccinations
- Data requests to monitor adult hep A/B vaccine administration by clinic type/provider type
- Immunization staff involvement with Viral Hepatitis Elimination Workgroup
  - Vaccination activities integrated within our Elimination Plan
- Connect community partners to key Immunization staff for vaccine education; enroll in AVP
  - Assisted in connecting local SSP with AVP
- Ensure Immunization staff included in outbreak response

# Hepatitis A Outbreak Response

- Immunization staff included in Hepatitis A Incident Command Structure
- Waivers provided to Public Health Districts with declared outbreaks
  - Bypass insurance screening for using 317-funded vaccines; made it easier to provide vaccination in high-risk settings (i.e. jails, homeless shelters)
- Immunization registry data monitored for vaccine administration statewide
- Vaccination administration data included in weekly situational reports
  - Public Health Districts required to report vaccine outreach data

Public Health District and Outreach Facility	Number of Vaccines Given	At Risk Group					
		Homeless	Drug User	Incarcerated	MSM	Contact of Confirmed Case	Other
<b>DISTRICT 1-1</b>	<b>9932</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Yes</b>
CLINIC	4163	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
HEALTH FAIR	94	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes
HOMELESS SHELTER	44	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes
JAIL	4392	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
OTHER	927	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
SUBSTANCE ABUSE	305	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes
UNKOWN	7	Yes	Yes	Yes			Yes
<b>DISTRICT 1-2</b>	<b>9626</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Yes</b>
CLINIC	7248	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
HEALTH FAIR	220						Yes
HOMELESS SHELTER	59	Yes	Yes				

# Connecting Local SSP with the Georgia Immunization Program

- Assisted local SSP (Georgia Harm Reduction Coalition) to become enrolled as an AVP
- Became enrolled during peak of our HepA outbreak
- Currently have SSPs in 32 locations statewide
- Continues to provide adult vaccinations to their clients
  - HepA, HepB, Twinrix, COVID-19, influenza, Tdap, HPV, Pneumovax, MPOX



*Up for some Shenanigans at **GHRC***

**March 18th - 22nd**  
**Vaccine Week**

GET TESTED AND RECEIVE AN INCENTIVE!

 **BENNETT CENTER**  
1231 JOSEPH E BOONE BLVD. NW  
ATLANTA, GA 30314

**Vaccines we offer:**  
Monkey Pox | Covid-19 | Tetanus | Hep-A  
Hep B | Shingles | Pneumonia | HPV

Clinic Hours of Operation:  
**Monday - Thursday 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.**  
**Friday 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.**



# Questions?

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