

HOPKINS COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT ANNUAL REPORT FISCAL YEAR 2019



Denise Beach, RN, BSN, MS
Public Health Director



Richard Lee, Jr., M.D.
Medical Director/ TB Physician

VISION STATEMENT

To obtain the highest level of health status possible for citizens of Hopkins County.

MISSION . . .

To promote physical and mental health by:

- Assessment of health needs of county
- Detection of congenital and acquired illnesses and conditions
- Provision and promotion of access to health care
- Promulgation of policies and regulations to improve health

The Hopkins County Health Department does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, or disability.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019

Programs	Services/Activities
Food Service Reviews	504
Food Borne Disease	37
Retail Food Stores	59
Produce/Farmers Markets	3
Food Safety Training	136
Hotel or Motels	8
Mobile Home/RV Parks	26
Tattoo Studios	27
Body Piercing Studios	1
Ear Piercing Studios	4
Schools	15
Youth Camp/Day Camps	6
Nuisance Control	279
Onsite Sewage Disposal	1,425
Private Sewage	164
Swimming Pools	48
Rabies Services (Bites)	432
Public Plan Reviews	6
Onsite Installer Retraining	60
Total	3,240

UNDUPLICATED PATIENTS SERVED

July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019

Services	Participants
Adult	1,220
Cancer	396
Dental	112
Family Planning	535
Maternity	17
Pediatrics	10,658
STDs	601
TB	368
WIC	1,877

BOARD OF HEALTH MEMBERS

Dr. Tristan Lineberry - Chairman
 Dr. Paul Walter - Vice Chair
 Dr. John Roy - Treasurer
 Jack Whitfield, Jr. - Judge Executive
 Ronnie Davis - Engineer
 Heath Duncan - Fiscal Court Appointee
 Jamie Knight - Consumer
 Dr. Rick Lee - Physician
 Dr. Alejandro Soriano - Physician
 Jan Sullivan - Nursing
 Dr. Emily Brown Taylor - Optometrist
 Tom Wortham - Pharmacist

Hepatitis A Outbreak Hopkins County, KY 2019

In January of 2019, Hopkins County was notified of the first case of Hepatitis A associated with our county. This outbreak started in Kentucky in 2017 and was genetically linked to cases in California, Utah and Michigan. This outbreak was severe; it began in Louisville and spread from Central and Eastern Kentucky into Western Kentucky, making Kentucky number one in the nation in the number of Hepatitis A Cases. This outbreak was mostly spread by illicit drug use, including marijuana use, and by homelessness. This outbreak has not been associated with restaurants or food sources.

Hepatitis A is a viral disease with an oral-fecal route of transmission, and can be spread when someone ingests the virus from objects, food, or drinks contaminated by small amounts of stool from an infected person. Hepatitis A is also spread from close personal contact with someone with the virus including sex, sharing drugs, or caring for someone.

Prior to the first case being identified in Hopkins County, the Health Department started prevention efforts. Health Department environmentalists started taking information out to area restaurants to inform the public of the risk. In addition, we created an intake form with which to interview incoming inmates to assure they did not have symptoms of Hepatitis A, as up to 60% of Hopkins County inmates are transfers from Louisville prisons. We also started offering Hepatitis A vaccines to our patients with high risk factors, regardless of insurance or ability to pay.

After Hopkins and Christian Counties became involved in the outbreak, we had a meeting with the Department of Public Health and Dr. Doug Thoroughman, who is the Centers for Disease Control career officer stationed in Kentucky. We were advised on ways to combat the outbreak and we were given funding to purchase more vaccine, supplies and to pay for additional staff time.

Any time a Hepatitis A case was reported to the Health Department's epidemiology nurse, she immediately went to the hospital to interview the patient, or she went to their home if the patient was not admitted to the hospital. This information is entered into an epidemiology program and monitored by the state epidemiologists. In addition, the nursing staff started offering Hepatitis A vaccines to the jail inmates and staff, probation and parole clients, drug court clients, and anyone who reported high risk activities who presented to the Health Department. The nurses expanded the vaccine efforts to homeless shelters, food banks, community clinics, hospital emergency staff, and anyone with close personal contact to those with high risk behaviors.

The Health Department staff did outreach by interviewing with the newspaper, social media, radio station, and television stations in order to disseminate the information about Hepatitis A. We also offered vaccination to our restaurant workers, as well as other at-risk work communities.

By the end of September of 2019, Hopkins County had 64 cases of Hepatitis A reported in our county. However, there was a definite trending toward fewer new cases, with only 3 cases being reported in September. In October, there have been no new cases of Hepatitis A reported as of 10/15/2019. The Health Department is tasked with disease prevention, outbreak investigation, surveillance and reporting; these duties were essential to stopping the spread of Hepatitis A in Hopkins County.

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