Hepatitis A Outbreak Toolbox
Updated: September 2019

Key reference documents


Case definitions

WHO suggested outbreak case definition

Suspected case:
- discrete onset of an acute illness with signs/symptoms of acute infectious illness (e.g. fever, malaise, fatigue) associated with:
  - clinical signs of liver damage: anorexia, nausea, jaundice, dark urine, right upper quadrant tenderness; or
  - raised alanine aminotransferase (ALT) levels more than ten times the upper limit of normal laboratory levels).

Probable case: Not applicable

Confirmed case:
- A suspected case with:
  - laboratory confirmation: Immunoglobulin M (IgM) anti-HAV (hepatitis A virus) positive; or
  - an epidemiological link with a confirmed case.

WHO surveillance case definition

- Standard operating procedures for enhanced reporting of cases of acute hepatitis (Geneva: World Health Organization; 2018).

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1 Ten times the upper limit of normal (400 IU/L) is the threshold used by the United States Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists (CSTE). Countries may also select lower (more sensitive) or higher (more specific) thresholds.
2 Contact with a confirmed case/patient during the 2–6 weeks before onset.
Data collection tools

- Line list: Consider age, sex, location, date of onset, severity and history of vaccination.
- Electronic tool: Not available.

Laboratory confirmation

- Technical considerations and case definitions to improve surveillance for viral hepatitis: technical report (Geneva: World Health Organization; 2016 (Sections 6.1 and 9)).

Response tools and resources


Other resources

- Standard operating procedures for enhanced reporting of cases of acute hepatitis (Geneva: World Health Organization; 2018).