



HEALTH ADVISORY (#32)

Hepatitis B Infection in Association with a Mission of Mercy Dental Clinic in Hedgesville, WV June 26-27, 2009

TO: West Virginia Healthcare Providers

**FROM: Catherine C. Slemp, MD, MPH, Acting State Health Officer
WVDHHR, Bureau for Public Health**

DATE: June 3, 2010

**LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENTS: PLEASE DISTRIBUTE TO COMMUNITY
HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS AND OTHER APPLICABLE PARTNERS**

OTHER RECIPIENTS: PLEASE DISTRIBUTE TO MEMBERS OR STAFF AS APPLICABLE

In June, 2009, a community sponsored, two day Mission of Mercy (MOM) Dental Clinic was held at the Hedgesville High School in Berkeley County. Approximately 700 volunteers assisted in providing free medical screenings and dental services to over 1100 patients. In November 2009, 5 cases of acute Hepatitis B were reported to local health departments in West Virginia. Two of these individuals were volunteers at the MOM, three received dental treatment. Investigation of these cases did not reveal any other common exposure or risk factor other than event participation. Notification letters are being sent to all patients and volunteers advising them of these findings. The notification letter to patients recommends testing for Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C, and HIV. Volunteer notification letters advise testing for those individuals who had direct contact with patients or dental equipment. The hepatitis C and HIV testing recommendation is based on these viruses having the same mode of transmission as Hepatitis B, not on new cases of either disease being identified. In the notification letters patients and volunteers are advised to contact their healthcare providers or local health departments for screening and testing.

If patients come to you with notification letters regarding this outbreak, please visit us on the web at <http://www.wvidep.org> for materials you will find helpful in counseling and testing patients. These include a frequently asked questions (FAQ) information sheet, instructions for submitting specimens to the WV Office of Laboratory Services, laboratory submission forms, and clinic patient / volunteer screening forms. These can also be obtained by calling your local health department or the state Division of STD/HIV and Hepatitis (1-800-642-8244). Either can also answer other questions you may have on the situation. Thank you.

This message was directly distributed by the West Virginia Bureau for Public Health to local health departments. Receiving entities are responsible for further disseminating the information as appropriate to the target audience.

Categories of Health Alert messages:

Health Alert: Conveys the highest level of importance, warrants immediate action or attention.

Health Advisory: Provides important information for a specific incident or situation. May not require immediate action.

Health Update: Provides updated information regarding an incident or situation. Unlikely to require immediate action.