



OUTBREAK OF ACUTE VIRAL HEPATITIS B IN WEST VIRGINIA

TO: West Virginia Healthcare Providers

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LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENTS: PLEASE DISTRIBUTE TO HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS

OTHER RECIPIENTS: PLEASE DISTRIBUTE TO APPLICABLE MEMBERS, STAFF, ETC.

Dear Health Care Providers:

The Berkeley County Health Department and the West Virginia Bureau for Public Health are investigating an outbreak of acute viral hepatitis B. If you have any patients with onset of viral hepatitis symptoms between August 1, 2009 through December 31, 2009, please order appropriate laboratory tests and notify your local health department immediately. Appropriate testing for acute viral hepatitis includes hepatitis A IgM, Hepatitis BsAg, Hepatitis BcIgM, Hepatitis C antibodies as well as liver enzymes. For patients with no health insurance, hepatitis testing is available through the West Virginia Office of Laboratory Services at 304-558-3530.

Please feel free to contact your local health department or West Virginia Bureau for Public Health, Office of Epidemiology and Prevention Services at 304-558-5358 should you have any questions. Thank you in advance for your help with this investigation.

This message was directly distributed by the West Virginia Bureau for Public Health to healthcare providers. Receiving entities are responsible for further disseminating the information to the targeted audiences noted.

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.