

Date: August 20, 2026

From: Dr. Dueck, Medical Officer of Health

Re: Manitoba Hepatitis A Outbreak: Ontario Ministry of Health Interim Immunization Strategy – Considering Hepatitis A Immunization Eligibility with Local Indigenous Primary Care Partners

Background

Ontario's Ministry of Health has issued a memo to local public health units detailing Manitoba's ongoing, significant hepatitis A outbreak that began in April 2025.

Initially concentrated in the Island Lake area of Northern Manitoba, including First Nations communities near the Northern Ontario border*, the hepatitis A outbreak has since expanded to other areas of Manitoba, particularly among homeless and underhoused populations in Winnipeg. As of July 16, 2026, **898 cases and seven deaths** have been reported. Ontario has identified **four** cases genetically linked to the Manitoba hepatitis A outbreak strain as of August 13, 2026.

In response to continued hepatitis A outbreak activity and Manitoba's expanded hepatitis A vaccine eligibility, Ontario has requested local public health units work with local Indigenous partners and identify whether Ontario's interim hepatitis A immunization strategy eligibility below would be beneficial to protect individuals and communities in the area.

Ontario Ministry of Health Interim Hepatitis A Immunization Strategy Eligibility:

Local Indigenous Primary Care partners are asked to please assess clients to whom they provide care, for eligibility and offer one dose of publicly funded hepatitis A vaccine to individuals six months of age and older who meet any of the following criteria:

- a) Live, work, travel to, or receive visitors from ANY Indigenous community in Manitoba.**
- b) Live in a Northern Ontario community or in close proximity to the Manitoba border.**
- c) Are homeless or underhoused AND travelling to or spending time anywhere in Manitoba.**
- d) Work, volunteer, or provide services in shelters, encampments, or similar settings in Winnipeg.**

Publicly funded hepatitis A vaccine for eligible patients can be ordered from Lambton Public Health using the online [High Risk vaccine order form](#).

Questions about vaccine ordering can be directed to vaccineorders@county-lambton.on.ca.

*** Indigenous communities directly impacted by the hepatitis A outbreak in Manitoba to date:**

Island Lake Area (Garden Hill, St. Theresa Point, Wasagamack, and Red Sucker Lake First Nations); Peguis First Nation; War Lake First Nation (also known as Ilford); Bloodvein River First Nation; Ebb and Flow First Nation; Cross Lake First Nation (Pimicikamak Cree Nation); Tataskweyak Cree Nation (Split Lake First Nation)