

Salt Lake County uses linked data systems to respond to Hepatitis A outbreak



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CATEGORY: **Nationally Notifiable Disease Surveillance System**

Due to an existing connection between their surveillance system and immunization registry, Salt Lake County Health Department was able to stop a Hepatitis A outbreak in its tracks by quickly identifying and administering vaccine to susceptible individuals.

The “What”

A nurse at an Assisted Living and Memory Care center in Salt Lake County was confirmed to have Hepatitis A. Because the Salt Lake County Health Department’s National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System (NNDSS) is connected to the Utah Immunization Information System (IIS), they were able to identify immediately which of the exposed staff and residents did not have the HAV vaccine, and thus needed postexposure prophylaxis (PEP). Within 24 hours, they were able to target susceptible individuals and provide PEP. Thirty-two out of 35 exposed residents were unvaccinated, and two out of three exposed staff were unvaccinated.



The “So What”

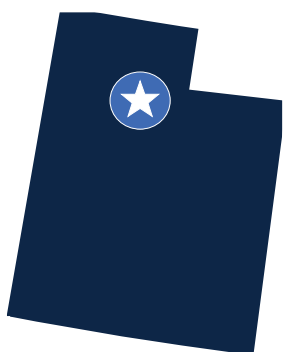
If the health department did not have the ability to link the NNDSS and Utah IIS, they would have had to manually match individuals between the two systems. This would have taken staff off other duties and more time, thus delaying the intervention, which could have resulted in additional spread of HAV.

The “Now What”

This highlights the importance of interoperability between public health data systems to be able to respond to outbreaks and public health emergencies effectively and efficiently.



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