

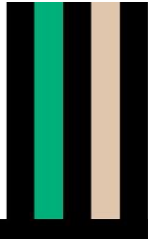


Winnebago County

Health Department

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Health
ALERT



Three (3) Potential Cases of Severe Hepatitis in Illinois Children April 27, 2022

Medical providers should be at increased awareness for hepatitis of unknown origin in children. The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) has learned of three (3) suspected cases of severe hepatitis in children under ten years of age, potentially linked to a strain of adenovirus. Two (2) of the cases are in suburban Chicago and one is in Western Illinois. One case resulted in a liver transplant. Winnebago County Health Department (WCHD) is not aware of any suspect cases of severe hepatitis in children at the present time.

WCHD is asking all medical providers to:

- Be on the lookout for symptoms of hepatitis of unknown origin in pediatric patients regardless of vaccination status;
- Consider adenovirus testing using PCR or NAAT on respiratory samples, stool or rectal swabs and whole blood

Cases should be reported here: [Pediatric Acute Hepatitis of Unknown Etiology Case Report Form](#).

Symptoms of hepatitis:

- | | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|------------------------|
| • Fever | • Nausea/vomiting | • Light-colored stools |
| • Fatigue | • Abdominal pain | • Joint pain |
| • Loss of appetite | • Dark urine | • Jaundice |

Symptoms of adenovirus 41:

- | | |
|------------|---|
| • Diarrhea | • Fever |
| • Vomiting | • Often accompanied by respiratory symptoms |

The IDPH announcement follows [a nationwide alert issued by the CDC](#) in response to a cluster of nine cases of hepatitis of unknown origin in children in Alabama ranging in age from 1 to 6 years old, all of whom were previously healthy. These cases appear to have an association with adenovirus 41.

CDC recommends:

- Parents/caregivers be aware of the symptoms of hepatitis and contact their healthcare provider with any concerns
- Children be up to date on all their vaccinations
- Everyone take everyday preventive actions
 - Washing hands often
 - Avoiding people who are sick
 - Covering coughs and sneezes
 - Avoiding touching the eyes, nose or mouth.

Please contact the WCHD Communicable Disease Program 24/7 at 815-720-4050 should you have any questions.

