Demand for Hepatitis A Vaccine Skyrockets in Florida

After a series of outbreaks, some local health departments are running out of the protective shot.

November 2, 2018 By Casey Halter

The demand for the hepatitis A virus (HAV) vaccine is skyrocketing in Florida, with some local health departments running out of the protective shot after a series of outbreaks and scares, ABC Action News reports.

In the past five days, Tampa Bay health authorities say 543 people in Hillsborough County have gotten a free hepatitis A vaccination. This follows the shutdown by health care workers of a popular fast food restaurant in nearby Ybor City, where an employee recently tested positive for the liver virus. Demand has been so high that nearby Pinellas County ran out of vaccines and is currently awaiting a new shipment.

Statewide, Florida has seen more than 280 cases of hepatitis this year—the highest in 13 years. Pinellas has the highest number of cases in the Tampa Bay area, with 58 cases. Hillsborough County is reporting 36. Pasco County is reporting 33.

Anyone who ate or drank at Hamburger Mary's between October 4 and 20 is being urged to get vaccinated against the virus, preferably at the Hillsborough County clinic, where plenty of vaccines are still available. The two-dose shot can protect against the virus for more than 20 years.

To learn more about hepatitis A and the ongoing outbreak occurring across the United States, click here.

© 2026 Smart + Strong All Rights Reserved.

http://beta.docker.hepmag.com/article/demand-hepatitis-vaccine-skyrockets-florida