

## Please Report Acute Hepatitis C Cases

While medical providers and laboratories are required to report hepatitis C to the Vermont Department of Health, there are minimal resources available for hepatitis C surveillance. The majority of hepatitis C cases that are reported to the Vermont Department of Health are from laboratories. Laboratory reports of hepatitis C cannot distinguish between acute and chronic cases. The Department of Health does not have the resources to contact medical providers for information necessary to determine whether a patient for whom we have received a lab report has symptoms of acute hepatitis C. The Department of Health must now rely on providers to report acute cases of hepatitis C.

### Acute Hepatitis C Case Definition

**Clinical criteria** - *An acute illness with:*

- discrete onset of symptoms consistent with acute viral hepatitis, and
- jaundice or elevated serum aminotransferase levels

### Laboratory criteria

- Serum alanine aminotransferase levels >7 times the upper limit of normal, and
- IgM anti-HAV negative, and
- IgM anti-HBc negative, and
- Antibodies to hepatitis C virus (anti-HCV) screening-test-positive with a signal to cut-off ratio predictive of a true positive as determined for the particular assay,

**OR**

Hepatitis C Virus Recombinant Immunoblot Assay (HCV RIBA) positive,

**OR**

Nucleic Acid Test (NAT) for HCV RNA positive.

Please report cases of acute hepatitis C to the Vermont Department of Health. The following information is needed by the Health Department in order to determine whether a case can be classified as “acute” per CDC guidelines:

- Jaundice and/or elevated LFTs
- Date of onset of symptoms
- Whether hepatitis A and B have been ruled out

**Cases of acute hepatitis C can be reported by phone at 800-640-4374 or fax at 802-951-4061.**

## Flu Activity Update & Antiviral Health Advisory

Vermont influenza sentinel practices are reporting low but increasing levels of influenza-like illness, and low numbers of positive rapid influenza tests are being reported from around the state. The VDH lab has had 4 positive influenza viral cultures, all of which were subtyped as influenza A(H1N1). A health advisory regarding the use of antiviral medications when there may be Tamiflu®-resistant flu strains circulating is available at:

<http://www.healthvermont.gov/advisory/documents/121908Influenza-OseltamivirResistance.pdf>

For further guidance, contact the Infectious Disease Epidemiology Section at (802) 863- 7240.

The *Infectious Disease Bulletin* can be viewed at:

<http://healthvermont.gov/pubs/IDB/index.aspx>

For questions & comments, please contact Patsy Kelso at (802) 863-7240

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