



Health, Seniors and Long-Term Care
Public Health
300 Carlton Street
Winnipeg, Manitoba Canada R3B 3M9

April 17, 2026

RE: Hepatitis A Vaccine Outbreak Eligibility Expansion to include War Lake First Nation, also known as the community of Ilford

Dear Health Care Provider,

Manitoba continues to see new cases of locally acquired hepatitis A associated with the ongoing provincial outbreak.

- As of April 14th, 2026, a total of 542 outbreak associated cases have been reported across the province.
- Recently, new cases have been identified among members of War Lake First Nation, also known as the community of Ilford in the Northern Health Region.

Therefore, Manitoba Health, Seniors and Long-Term Care (MHSLTC) has expanded hepatitis A outbreak vaccine eligibility, which now includes the following populations aged six months and older:

- All community members in:
 - i. **War Lake First Nation, also known as Ilford (NEW);**
 - ii. The Island Lake area (Garden Hill, St. Theresa Point, Wasagamack and Red Sucker Lake First Nations) - effective May 2025;
 - iii. Peguis First Nation - effective February 2026;
- Anyone travelling to or working in these communities;
- Those who have household visitors from these communities.

In addition, increasing cases in Winnipeg, particularly among people experiencing homelessness and using shelters, continue to occur. People with unstable housing are eligible to receive two doses of hepatitis A vaccine as part of Manitoba's existing publicly funded high-risk hepatitis A immunization program.

Please note for the outbreak response, one dose is currently recommended. The first dose is highly effective and provides protection for at least a decade. The priority is to provide as many first doses as possible to everyone who is eligible. The need for a second dose will be reviewed

in the future.

For complete vaccine eligibility including outbreak, high-risk medical conditions and other non-medical risk factors criteria please visit:

<https://www.gov.mb.ca/health/publichealth/cdc/vaccineeligibility.html>.

What can you do?

- Review immunization records and offer hepatitis A vaccines to eligible individuals. Immunization efforts are ongoing in multiple communities and settings.
- Please remain vigilant and aware of the potential for hepatitis A infection among anyone presenting with compatible symptoms in all regions of Manitoba. Early identification and clinical assessment, along with testing and reporting to public health are essential.
- Clinical cases can be reported using the Clinical Notification of Reportable Disease and Conditions form https://www.gov.mb.ca/health/publichealth/cdc/protocol/mhsu_0013.pdf. Early identification allows public health to quickly identify contacts and exposure locations and administer hepatitis A vaccine which may prevent infection.
- Refer to the hepatitis A communicable disease protocol for further information: <https://www.gov.mb.ca/health/publichealth/cdc/protocol/hepa.pdf>.

Vaccines can be requested by completing the Manitoba Health Vaccines and Biologics Order Form (www.gov.mb.ca/health/publichealth/cdc/protocol/vaccinebiologics.pdf) and faxing or emailing the completed form to the Provincial Vaccine Warehouse.

If you have any questions, please email vaccines@gov.mb.ca. Thank you for your cooperation and support.

Sincerely,

“Original Signed by”

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