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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Cases of Preventable Liver Disease Continue to Increase
Vaccination Urged for People at Risk for Hepatitis A**

TROY, OHIO (12/12/2018) – Ohio and surrounding Midwest states have seen a large increase in cases of Hepatitis A in 2018. As of 12/4/2018 there have been 20 cases of Hepatitis A in Miami County and 1126 cases in the state of Ohio. Last year in 2017 there were no cases in Miami County and only 45 throughout the state.

The best way for at-risk individuals to prevent Hepatitis A is to get a vaccination. Contact your healthcare provider or contact Miami County Public Health (MCPH) for information about vaccination. MCPH can provide the Hepatitis A vaccine for anyone regardless of their ability to pay. To schedule an appointment for vaccination call MCPH at 937-573-3518.

Individuals who are at greater risk for Hepatitis A include:

- People who use street drugs whether they are injected or not
- People who are incarcerated
- People experiencing homelessness
- Men who have sex with men
- People with direct contact with individuals infected with the virus
- People who have traveled to other areas of the U.S. currently experiencing outbreaks

People who know that they have been exposed to someone with Hepatitis A should contact their healthcare provider or Public Health to discuss post-exposure vaccination options. Individuals who experience symptoms of Hepatitis A should contact their healthcare provider.

Hepatitis A is a vaccine-preventable liver disease that usually spreads when a person ingests fecal matter—even in small amounts—from contact with objects, food, or drinks contaminated





by the stool of an infected person. Hepatitis A also can spread from close personal contact with an infected person, such as through sex.

Symptoms of Hepatitis A include fatigue, low appetite, stomach pain, nausea, light-colored stools and jaundice. Most people who get Hepatitis A feel sick for several months, but they usually recover completely and do not have lasting liver damage. Sometimes Hepatitis A can cause liver failure and death, although this is rare and occurs more commonly in people older than 50 and people with other liver diseases.

For more information call Miami County Public Health at 937-573-3518 or go to www.miamicountyhealth.net

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