HEALTH ADVISORY: Perinatal Hepatitis B Reporting, November 14, 2023

SITUATION:

Hepatitis B virus (HBV) infection in a pregnant person may pose a risk to an infant at the time of birth. Preventing perinatal transmission depends on testing all pregnant persons for hepatitis B surface antigen (HBsAg); ensuring that those persons with chronic HBV infection are evaluated to see if they are eligible for antiviral therapy; and administering timely hepatitis B vaccine and hepatitis B immune globulin to infants born to HBV-infected persons.

California state law (California Code of Regulations Title 17, Section 2500) mandates reporting of perinatal HBV in a pregnant person to local public health departments within one week. The Alameda County Public Health Department (ACPHD) Perinatal HBV Prevention Program investigates these reports of HBV in a pregnant person and provides case management to HBsAg positive persons and their infants. The ACPHD Perinatal HBV Prevention Program typically receives approximately 10 or more reports of HBV-infected mothers on a monthly basis; however, in the past year the program has received less than 5 reports per month. The purpose of this health advisory is to remind healthcare providers to submit reports of HBV in a pregnant person or an infant born to a person with HBV to the ACPHD Perinatal HBV Prevention Program.

ACTIONS REQUESTED OF HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS:

1) Screen any pregnant person with a positive HBsAg

2) Evaluate any HBsAg-positive pregnant person for treatment eligibility with antiviral therapy

3) Report any pregnant person with a positive HBsAg to the ACPHD Perinatal Prevention Program by completing a Confidential Morbidity Report. Please send the Confidential Morbidity Report, and ensure the question regarding pregnancy status is completed, via fax to (510-268-2111) or e-mail to Hep-immunize@acgov.org

4) Report any infant born to a pregnant person with a positive HBsAg to the ACPHD Perinatal Prevention Program by completing a Hospital Report Form. Please send the Hospital Report via fax to (510-268-2111) or e-mail to Hep-immunize@acgov.org

5) Direct any clinical questions or consultation regarding management of a pregnant person with a positive HBsAg or infant born to a person with a positive HBsAg to the ACPHD Perinatal Prevention Program by phone at 510-268-2347 or e-mail at Hep-immunize@acgov.org

RESOURCES

Alameda County Perinatal HBV Prevention Program.
California Department of Public Health Perinatal HBV Prevention Programs.
CDPH Perinatal HBV Quick Sheet
Perinatal Transmission of Hepatitis B virus | CDC