



National Office
Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists

April 24, 2022

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
1600 Clifton Road
Atlanta, GA 30329

Dear CDC:

I am writing in regard to the possible association between pediatric hepatitis and adenovirus infection that is currently under investigation. On 21 April 2022, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) issued a Health Alert Network (HAN) Health Advisory to notify clinicians who may encounter pediatric patients with hepatitis of unknown etiology to consider adenovirus testing and to elicit reporting of such cases to state public health authorities and to CDC. While adenovirus is a known cause of hepatitis among immunocompromised children, it may also be an underrecognized cause of hepatitis in healthy children and this relationship needs to be investigated. Following the release of the HAN, potential cases of pediatric hepatitis of unknown etiology have been identified in many states. Thus, the investigation of this association between pediatric hepatitis and adenovirus infection will require a coordinated multi-state and jurisdictional investigation, as well as specialized assistance and resources to adequately respond. The Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists (CSTE) strongly supports a centrally coordinated multi-state and jurisdictional investigation of the association between pediatric hepatitis and adenovirus infection and recommends multi-state technical assistance from CDC.

A multi-state coordinated investigation of pediatric hepatitis potentially associated with adenovirus will assist each state/local/territory jurisdiction in making rapid, practical decisions for actions to prevent and control the public health problem. This approach will streamline and strengthen the response, as opposed to multiple state and jurisdictional investigations independently assessing this relationship and developing their own risk assessment.

Each jurisdiction participating in the multi-jurisdictional response would retain ownership of and is responsible for all data collected within their state.

Sincerely,

Janet Hamilton, MPH
Executive Director
Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists