**Focused Hepatitis A Infection Control and Prevention In Sheltering**

In addition to implementation of routine infection control and prevention measures implemented in all ARC shelters. Routine infection control and prevention measures are provided in the Red Cross Job Tool, “**Assisting With Infection Control and Prevention in the Shelter Environment” (attached).** This Job Tool is based on **APIC guidelines** and can be found on the Red Cross Exchange in the Disaster Health Services Tool Kit in the document **Support To Clients Job Tool.**

Red Cross Disaster Health Services will implement focused Hepatitis A infection control and prevention initiatives in the event of shelters opening in locations where Hepatitis A outbreaks have been declared by Public Health. Infection control and prevention Initiatives will focus on mode of transmission and prevention.

 **I. Prevention initiatives to include:**

* Placement of monitored hand washing stations outside entry door to shelter (weather permitting), inside shelter entry prior to registration, and outside shelter restrooms. Diaper changing areas will **be positioned within proximity to hand washing stations.**
* A shelter worker will be assigned to each hand washing station and will monitor and remind both clients and staff to wash hands upon entry to shelter, prior to meals, when exiting restrooms, and after changing diapers.
* **Hand washing with soap and water is the primary infection control and prevention measure for Hepatitis A**. Hand sanitizer is not effective in prevention of Hepatitis A. 60% alcohol based hand sanitizer will be available throughout the shelter, but **does not take the place of hand washing with soap and water.**

 **II. Disaster Health Service Nurses will:**

* Ensure infection control and prevention supplies are available in nurse kits and in shelters.
* Provide focused education/information to shelter client and Red Cross staff on Hepatitis A, mode of transmission and prevention interventions.
* Teach and demonstrate proper hand washing technique to clients as well as staff. Include turning off faucets in restrooms and on hand wash stations with a paper towel after washing hands.
* Post proper hand washing technique and Hepatitis A prevention posters throughout shelters.
* Monitor clients and staff for symptoms of Hepatitis A during rounding, client assessments and completion of **CMIST forms**. (Attached) If symptoms of Hepatitis A are assessed, report to Public Health.
* Per Red Cross Disaster Health Services protocol complete daily Morbidity form and provide to Public Health Department epidemiologists every 24 hours. If communicable disease trends are noted, report to Public Health immediately.
* Ensure an area of the shelter designated as isolation are if the need for isolation is needed.

 **III. Shelter Staff responsibilities:**

* Cleanse surfaces in feeding area, snack area, registration table, and diaper changing area with bleach solution frequently throughout the day.
* Wear gloves to clean surfaces and restrooms.
* Wear gloves to clean restrooms, restroom sink, hand washing stations, empty trash twice a day.

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