

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR HILDA SOLIS

October 3, 2017

On October 12, 2017 Los Angeles County declared an outbreak of hepatitis A. The populations most at risk in this outbreak are homeless individuals and illicit drug users, as well as service providers for these populations. Since declaring an outbreak, the Department of Public Health has mobilized rapidly to limit the number of additional cases. Major efforts include public outreach and education, vaccinating at-risk individuals, swiftly identifying cases and contacts, and implementing environmental interventions to prevent further spread of the disease.

As hepatitis A has a fecal-oral route of transmission, access to toilets and handwashing facilities is of critical importance. While efforts are already underway to increase access in some areas with high numbers of homeless people, such as Venice and Skidrow, additional efforts are needed to identify areas where lack of sanitation facilities for homeless people could increase the possibility of spreading Hepatitis A.. Once areas are so identified, additional options for safe toileting are needed in order to prevent spread of hepatitis A.

MOTION

SOLIS

KUEHL

HAHN

BARGER

RIDLEY-THOMAS

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors:

1. Instruct the Director of the Department of Public Health to conduct a survey of homeless encampments identified by LAHSA, including those in unincorporated areas and in the San Gabriel Valley River Bed and Los Angeles River Bed, to assess where additional toilet and handwashing facilities are most needed.
2. Instruct the Director of the Department of Public Health to report back in writing within 30 days with a proposed plan that identifies locations of greatest need in the unincorporated areas and identifies options for increasing additional toilet and handwashing facilities in these areas.