

June 12, 2019

**BOARD OF HEALTH RESOLUTION
PERSONAL INCENTIVES FOR HEPATITIS A PREVENTION MEASURES**

WHEREAS, hepatitis A is a vaccine-preventable, communicable disease of the liver caused by the hepatitis A virus, which is usually transmitted person-to-person through the fecal-oral route or consumption of contaminated food or water, and

WHEREAS, Alabama is experiencing a new outbreak of hepatitis A virus infections that has spread from a major outbreak in nearby states, and

WHEREAS, there have been cases of hepatitis A in Jefferson County, Alabama in recent weeks, and

WHEREAS, Jefferson County is at risk of a major outbreak of hepatitis A, and

WHEREAS, hepatitis A can cause illness lasting several weeks, and can lead to hospitalization and possible death, and

WHEREAS, the hepatitis A vaccine is safe and highly effective, and handwashing can reduce spread of the virus, and

WHEREAS, certain groups of people are at increased risk of contracting hepatitis A, including people experiencing homelessness, people who are incarcerated, people who use drugs (injection and non-injection), and men who have sex with men, and

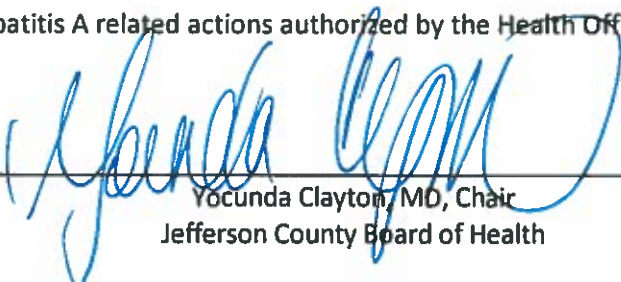
WHEREAS, people with chronic liver disease, including cirrhosis, hepatitis B or hepatitis C, are at increased risk of developing serious complications from hepatitis A infection, and

WHEREAS, some groups of people may be difficult to engage in hepatitis A prevention education or may be resistant to getting vaccinated against hepatitis A, due to trust issues, competing personal priorities, or other barriers, and

WHEREAS, targeting at-risk groups of people with hepatitis A prevention education and vaccination serves a public health purpose and helps protect the overall public health and general welfare of the community;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Jefferson County Board of Health authorizes the use of Jefferson County Department of Health funds to:

1. Provide hepatitis A vaccine free of charge to at-risk individuals who otherwise may have difficulty accessing the vaccine
2. Transfer hepatitis A vaccine stock to partner organizations to assist the Department in vaccinating at-risk individuals
3. Provide personal incentives, such as hygiene kits, hand sanitizer, gift cards or transportation vouchers, in order to encourage certain at-risk individuals to engage in hepatitis A prevention education and/or receive the hepatitis A vaccine
4. Take other hepatitis A related actions authorized by the Health Officer to protect public health



Yocunda Clayton, MD, Chair
Jefferson County Board of Health