



# County of San Diego

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August 31, 2017

Scott Chadwick  
Chief Operating Officer  
City of San Diego  
202 "C" Street, MS 9-A  
San Diego, CA 92101

**Re: Health Officer Directive to Combat Hepatitis A**

Dear Mr. Chadwick:

As you know, the Public Health Services Division, in the County of San Diego Health and Human Services Agency, is currently combating a large Hepatitis A outbreak. As of today, at least 379 cases have been reported since late November 2016, with 15 deaths. The majority of people who have contracted Hepatitis A are homeless and/or illicit drug users. The outbreak is being spread person-to-person and through contact with a fecally contaminated environment.

One of the areas most impacted by the Hepatitis A outbreak in the County is the downtown area of the City of San Diego, where many homeless reside in unsanitary conditions. Since the Hepatitis A virus is resilient and not diminishing, enhanced sanitation will help minimize chances of transmission and help contain the outbreak when coupled with ongoing immunization and education efforts.

Attached is a Health Officer Directive to Combat Hepatitis A ("Directive") for the City to take immediate action to address the unsanitary living conditions of the at-risk population. The County Health Officer is directing the City to: 1) immediately implement the cleaning and sanitation protocol contained in the attached SANITATION PROCEDURES FOR PUBLIC RIGHT-OF-WAYS; and 2) immediately expand access to public restrooms and wash stations within the City limits that are adjacent to at-risk populations. Also, attached is a listing and GIS map of locations where placement of handwashing stations should occur.

In addition, the City should immediately begin placing handwashing stations throughout the impacted areas. Please also direct City staff to eliminate restrictions as to where County staff can park the County mobile van to vaccinate the at-risk population.

Action by the City to immediately comply with this Directive is essential to prevent the further spread of Hepatitis A within the City.

Letter to Scott Chadwick

August 31, 2017

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You are directed to respond within five (5) business days from the date of this letter stating the date by which you will fully comply.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Helen Robbins-Meyer". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "H" and "R".

Helen Robbins-Meyer  
Chief Administrative Officer  
County of San Diego

Attachments:

- 1) Directive to the City of San Diego to Combat Hepatitis A
- 2) SANITATION PROCEDURES FOR PUBLIC RIGHT-OF-WAYS
- 3) Listing of locations for placement of wash stations and GIS map

cc: Nick Macchione, FACHE, HHSA Director  
Wilma J. Wooten, M.D. M.P.H.



# County of San Diego

NICK MACCHIONE, FACHE  
DIRECTOR

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PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES  
TUBERCULOSIS CONTROL BRANCH  
3851 ROSECRANS STREET, MAIL STOP P-576  
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WILMA J. WOOTEN, M.D., M.P.H.  
PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICER

DATE: August 31, 2017  
TO: The City of San Diego  
FROM: Wilma J. Wooten, M.D., M.P.H., San Diego County Health Officer  
SUBJECT: Health Officer Directive to Combat Hepatitis A

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The Public Health Services Division, in the County of San Diego Health and Human Services Agency, has been investigating a local Hepatitis A outbreak. The majority of people who have contracted Hepatitis A are homeless individuals and/or illicit drug users, who are considered the at-risk population. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention states that person-to-person transmission and close contact is the primary way people contract Hepatitis A in the United States. Hepatitis A is also being spread through contact with a fecally contaminated environment.

To combat the outbreak, the County of San Diego has initiated vaccination efforts in targeted locations by County staff and in collaboration with community health care partners. To date, approximately 18,929 have been vaccinated in direct response to this outbreak, of which, 7,145 were given to the at-risk population. In addition, the County of San Diego has distributed over 1,400 hygiene kits to the at-risk population. Furthermore, the County placed handwashing stations on its own properties that are in reasonably close proximity to places where the at-risk population congregates.

Immediate action by the City of San Diego is critical to address the unsanitary living conditions of the at-risk population. Specifically, action is necessary to combat the continued exposure to human fecal matter that contains Hepatitis A.

## DIRECTIVE

As the Public Health Officer for the County of San Diego, and as the City of San Diego's designated Public Health Officer, and pursuant to my authority under California Health and Safety Code section 120175, I am issuing a directive to the City of San Diego to take immediate action to prevent the spread of Hepatitis A, which shall include:

- 1) Immediately implementing the cleaning and sanitation protocol contained in the attached document: *SANITATION PROCEDURES FOR PUBLIC RIGHT-OF-WAYS*; and
- 2) Immediately expanding access to public restrooms and wash stations within the City limits that are adjacent to at-risk populations.

The actions in this directive are essential to prevent the further spread of Hepatitis A within the City of San Diego. Failure to immediately follow this directive will endanger public health and safety.

# SANITATION PROCEDURES FOR PUBLIC RIGHT-OF-WAYS



UPDATED AUGUST 31, 2017

## OBJECTIVE

The purpose of this document is to provide operating procedures and recommendations for the sanitation of public right-of-ways (e.g., sidewalks, streets, and gutters).

## PUBLIC NOTIFICATION

Public notification must adhere to the respective City regulations prior to the cleanup, removal, and storage of personal property found on city streets and property.

## HAZARD ASSESSMENT

For the safety of everyone working in the area to be sanitized, it is recommended that a hazard assessment be conducted to identify any hazardous or otherwise unsafe items prior to conducting any sanitation activities. These items can include, but are not limited to hazardous chemicals, infectious waste (e.g., hypodermic needles/sharps), drug paraphernalia, firearms, live ammunition, explosives, or weapons. All employees or contractors should be properly trained prior to conducting a hazard assessment or any activities included in this sanitation procedure. Training should include, but is not limited to:

- 40 hour HazWoper training with current refresher training
- [Occupational Safety and Health Administration](#) (OSHA) Universal and Standard Precautions for Bloodborne pathogens and other Potentially Infectious Materials

Other training may be required for the safe handling of hazardous and biohazardous wastes

## SANITATION PROCEDURE

High concentration chlorine (sodium hypochlorite) solutions are effective and universally available products for the disinfection of a wide range of surfaces. For the purposes of sanitizing public right-of-ways, the following procedures must be followed after conducting the hazard assessment:

1. While wearing appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE), prepare a 5,000 ppm solution of bleach and water (Solution A). Use 5.25% chlorine (household bleach) and mix a 1:10 dilution (1 part bleach, 9 parts water).
2. Use a chlorine test strip to ensure you have reached the desired concentration (5,000 ppm). There are several test strips that are commercially available.
3. Fill Hudson sprayers or similar distribution equipment.
4. Cover all storm drains to prevent run off.
5. Carefully spray all feces, blood, bodily fluids or contaminated surfaces with Solution A and wait for a minimum of 10 minutes.
6. After 10 or more minutes, carefully containerize feces or any other contaminated solid materials for disposal to landfill.
7. Respray any newly exposed surfaces with Solution A and wait for a minimum of 10 minutes.
8. Pressure-wash the sidewalks, streets, gutters, and inlet of storm drain catch basins with water.
9. Recover the generated waste water with a Vactor Truck for disposal to the sanitary sewer.
10. Mix 1 part of Solution A with 9 parts water to make Solution B (500 ppm) for final disinfection.
11. Use a chlorine test strip to ensure you have reached the desired concentration (500 ppm).

12. Carefully spray all washed areas with Solution B and wait for a minimum of 30 minutes to allow for adequate disinfection and degradation of residual chlorine.
13. Use a test strip on treated surfaces to determine the chlorine has adequately degraded prior to reoccupation.

It is important to note that higher concentrations and elevated temperatures can cause chlorine to degrade quickly over time. It is recommended that a fresh solution be made each day to ensure the most effective solution is used.

## RECOMMENDED FREQUENCY

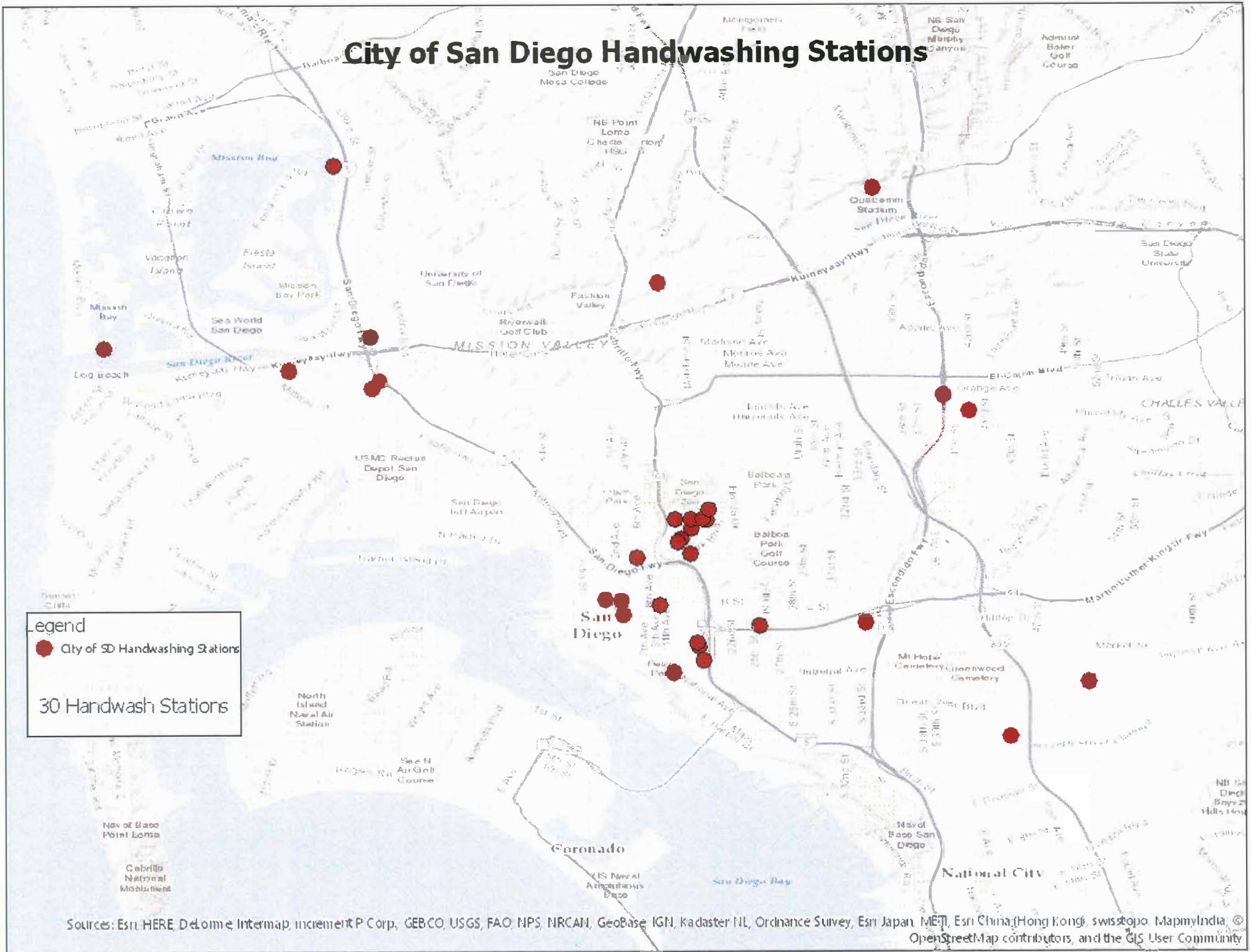
In concentrated areas of homeless and drug using individuals, after the complete sanitation process (above), weekly spot maintenance should occur with additional rounds of the complete sanitation process at least every two weeks.

## REFERENCES

1. City of Los Angeles. *Operation Healthy Streets Protocol*. 2012.
2. U.S. Occupational Safety & health Administration. *Healthcare Wide Hazards*. 2017. Retrieved from: <https://www.osha.gov/SLTC/etools/hospital/hazards/univprec/univ.html>
3. Center for Disease Control and Prevention. *Chemical Disinfectants - Guideline for Disinfection and Sterilization in Healthcare Facilities*. 2008. Retrieved from: <https://www.cdc.gov/infectioncontrol/guidelines/disinfection/disinfection-methods/chemical.html>
4. U.S. Army Public Health Command. *Preparing and Measuring High Chlorine Concentration Solution for Disinfection*. 2014. Retrieved from: [https://phc.amedd.army.mil/PHC%20Resource%20Library/TIP\\_No\\_13-034-1114\\_Prep\\_Measure\\_High\\_Chlorine\\_Solutions.pdf](https://phc.amedd.army.mil/PHC%20Resource%20Library/TIP_No_13-034-1114_Prep_Measure_High_Chlorine_Solutions.pdf)

Developed by County of San Diego Department of Environmental Health

# City of San Diego Handwashing Stations



Legend

- City of SD Handwashing Stations

30 Handwash Stations

Sources: Esri, HERE, DeLorme, Intermap, increment P Corp., GEBCO, USGS, FAO, NPS, NRCAN, GeoBase, IGN, Kadaster NL, Ordnance Survey, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), Swisstopo, MapmyIndia, OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community

**HEPATITIS A - HAND WASHING STATION (HWS)**

<b>No.</b>	<b>Site</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>Jurisdiction</b>
1	Balboa Park - Museum of Man	1350 El Prado, San Diego, CA 92101	City of San Diego
2	Balboa Park - San Diego Museum of Art	1450 El Prado, San Diego, CA 92102	City of San Diego
3	Balboa Park - Fleet Science Center	1875 El Prado, San Diego, CA 92101	City of San Diego
4	Balboa Park - Spreckels Organ Pavilion	2125 Pan American Rd E, San Diego, CA 92101	City of San Diego
5	Balboa Park - San Diego Natural History Museum	1788 El Prado, San Diego, CA 92101	City of San Diego
6	Balboa Park - Spanish Village Art Center	1770 Village Pl, San Diego, CA 92101	City of San Diego
7	Balboa Park - Hall of Champions	2131 Pan American Plaza, San Diego, CA 92101	City of San Diego
8	Balboa Park - Centro Cultural de la Raza	2004 Park Blvd, San Diego, CA 92101	City of San Diego
9	Balboa Park - Civic Center Plaza	1200 Third Ave, San Diego, CA 92101	City of San Diego
10	Euclid Ave. Station	San Diego, CA 92102	City of San Diego
11	Father Joes Villages	3350 E St, San Diego, CA 92102	City of San Diego
12	Front Street South of A Street	Front Street South of A Street	City of San Diego
13	God's Etended Hand	1625 Island Ave, San Diego, CA 92101	City of San Diego
14	Ingraham & Morena		City of San Diego
15	Legal Aid Society (Euclid)	110 Euclid Ave, San Diego, CA 92114	City of San Diego
16	Mariner's Point La Jolla Shores Beach (North Grassy Area)		City of San Diego
17	Mission Bay Park	2688 East Mission Bay Drive, San Diego, CA 92109	City of San Diego
18	Neil Good Day Center	299 17th St, San Diego, CA 92101	City of SD/CalTrans
19	Public Storage (Self-Storage at 16th & Market St)	560 16th St, San Diego, CA 92101	City of San Diego
20	Red Lobster/Phil's BBQ Strip Mall (Cross Street is Sports Arena Blvd.)	4040 Hancock Street, San Diego 92110	City of San Diego
21	Rosecrans & PCH, Under the 5	3899 Rosecrans St, San Diego, CA 92110 (Secure Self Storage)	City of San Diego
22	Rosecrans & PCH, Under the 8 Transition	4800 Pacific Hwy, San Diego, CA 92110 (Stor'em Self Storage)	City of San Diego
23	San Diego Mission Road at the San Diego River Qualcomm Stadium bike path	9449 Friars Rd, San Diego, CA 92108	City of San Diego
24	San Diego River Bike Path under Sunset Cliffs	San Diego River, San Diego, CA 92109	City of San Diego
25	Sixth Avenue & Fir Street	Sixth Ave & Fir St, San Diego, CA 92101	City of San Diego
26	St. Vincent de Paul's Courtyard	3350 E St, San Diego, CA 92102	City of San Diego
27	Teralta Park	San Diego, CA 92105	City of San Diego
28	The Civic Center (3rd & B)	1200 Third Ave, San Diego, CA 92101	City of San Diego
29	The Parking Lot at Hazard Center Dr. & Mission Center Rd.	Hazard Center Dr, San Diego, CA 92108 and Mission Center Rd, San Diego, CA	City of San Diego
30	Willie Henderson Sports Complex	1035 S 45th St, San Diego, CA 92113	City of San Diego