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NH-HAN 20130830



Hepatitis A in a Second Food Service Worker

NH Department of Health and Human Services (NH DHHS) recommends:

- Awareness that a second New Hampshire food service worker has been confirmed to have hepatitis A virus infection and that unvaccinated, exposed restaurant patrons are advised to receive either hepatitis A vaccine or immune globulin.
- Awareness that NH DHHS will conduct public clinics to administer the vaccine or immune globulin to exposed patrons. Clinics will be held on Friday, August 30, 2013, from 5 to 8 p.m. and Saturday, August 31, 2013, from 9 a.m. to noon, both at Bow High School located at 32 White Rock Hill Road, Bow, NH.
- Exposed patrons who develop symptoms consistent with hepatitis A virus infection be evaluated by their primary care physician.
- Reporting suspected and confirmed cases of hepatitis A virus infection to the Bureau of Infectious Disease Control at 603-271-4496 (after hours 1-800-852-3345 ext. 5300).

Background:

The NH DHHS Bureau of Infectious Disease Control has received report of a second confirmed case of hepatitis A virus (HAV) infection in a food service worker at the Covered Bridge Restaurant in Contoocook, NH. A public health assessment of the employee's illness and food and beverage preparation practices in the establishment has determined that restaurant patrons may be at risk for HAV infection. NH DHHS is therefore recommending administration of post-exposure prophylaxis to certain patrons according to the NH-HAN 20130807 guidelines previously distributed via the health alert network on August 7, 2013:

<http://www.dhhs.nh.gov/dphs/cdcs/alerts/documents/hepatitisa-fsworker.pdf>.

Additionally, the infected food service worker also prepared food at two catered events on August 10th and August 17th. The attendees of these events have been identified and are currently being notified of their potential exposure.

For Healthcare Providers Evaluating Exposed Persons

NH DHHS is currently recommending a single dose of single-antigen vaccine or immune globulin (IG) (0.02 mL/kg) as soon as possible for any person who consumed foods or beverages on August 20, 2013, at the Covered Bridge Restaurant in Contoocook, NH, or who were contacted by NH DHHS and recommended to receive prophylaxis based on their attendance at one of the catered events.

NH DHHS in conjunction with the Capital Area Public Health Network will be offering hepatitis A vaccine and IG at public clinics on the following dates and locations:

- Friday, August 30, 2013, from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. at Bow High School located at 32 White Rock Hill Road, Bow, NH
- Saturday, August 31, 2013, from 9 a.m. to noon at Bow High School located at 32 White Rock Hill Road, Bow, NH

Exposed persons may choose to receive prophylaxis at their primary care provider or at one of the public clinics.

Additionally, exposed persons should be aware of the symptoms of HAV infection, monitor for symptoms for up to 50 days following his or her exposure, and seek medical evaluation if symptoms develop.

NH DHHS has established a public information line for exposed persons to call for additional information. This number is 1-800-562-8236.

For additional information on Hepatitis A Virus please refer to:

1. NH DHHS Health Alert Network Message NH-HAN 20130807 dated August 7, 2013: <http://www.dhhs.nh.gov/dphs/cdcs/alerts/documents/hepatitisa-fsworker.pdf>
2. NH DHHS website: <http://www.dhhs.nh.gov/>
3. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Hepatitis A FAQs for Health Professionals: <http://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/HAV/HAVfaq.htm>

If you or other health care providers have questions, please call the Bureau of Infectious Disease Control at 603-271-4496 or 1-800-852-3345, extension 4496 during business hours (8:00 AM to 4:30 AM). On nights or weekends call the New Hampshire Hospital switchboard at 1-800-852-3345 extension 5300 and request the Public Health Professional on-call.

Attachments: None

To change your contact information in the NH Health Alert Network, contact Denise Krol at 603-271-4596 or email Denise.Krol@dhhs.state.nh.us

View or download NHHAN Messages at <http://www.dhhs.nh.gov/dphs/cdcs/alerts/han.htm>

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