



Department of Health and Human Services
Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention
286 Water Street
11 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333-0011
Tel: (207) 287-8016; Fax (207) 287-9058
TTY Users: Dial 711 (Maine Relay)

Maine Health Alert Network (HAN) System

PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY

To: Medical Providers, Clinicians, Hospitalists, Health Care Facilities, Physician Practices, Corrections and Veteran Agencies, School Health Care, Emergency Services

From: Dr. Siiri Bennett, State Epidemiologist

Subject: **Acute Hepatitis A Case in a Food Service Worker in Dover-Foxcroft**

Date / Time: Thursday, November 19, 2020 at 6:13PM

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Priority: **High**

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ACUTE HEPATITIS A CASE IN A FOOD SERVICE WORKER IN DOVER-FOXCROFT

The Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention (Maine CDC) has identified a case of acute hepatitis A virus infection in a Dover-Foxcroft, Maine, food service worker. The case handled food while infectious on November 11, 2020.

Epidemiological assessment of the employee's illness determined that restaurant patrons may be at risk for hepatitis A infection. Maine CDC is recommending that anyone who may have eaten food prepared at or who worked at Pat's Pizza in Dover-Foxcroft on November 11, 2020 receive hepatitis A vaccine by November 25, 2020 as there is a 14-day window during which prophylaxis is effective. This recommendation includes anyone who may have had dine-in, take-out, delivery, or curbside pickup of food from the restaurant. These recommendations are based on the best information available at this time. Health care providers are encouraged to remain vigilant for hepatitis A infection in persons with consistent symptoms and should ask individuals with such symptoms about consumption of food from this establishment during this period.

Background:

Hepatitis A virus is transmitted by the fecal-oral route, commonly through consumption of contaminated food or water. Persons will begin to exhibit symptoms 15-50 days after exposure to the virus. A person is considered infectious approximately two weeks prior to symptom onset until one week after onset of symptoms. Exposed persons can receive post-exposure prophylaxis up to 14 days from exposure, after which, the treatment is no longer effective. Prophylaxis includes hepatitis A vaccine. Immunocompromised individuals or children under 12 months old should consult their health care providers about receiving hepatitis A immune globulin (IG).

Recommendations:

Health care providers should consider testing for hepatitis A if patients present with any of the following symptoms: Fever, jaundice, nausea, clay colored stool, dark urine, malaise, abdominal discomfort, anorexia, or vomiting.

Testing includes an acute hepatitis panel (should include hepatitis A IgM) and liver enzymes. Health care providers should review their patients' vaccine records and offer hepatitis A vaccine to those who are eligible.

Reporting:

All cases of suspected and confirmed hepatitis A infection should be reported by phone to the 24/7 disease reporting and consultation line at 1-800-821-5821.

For More Information:

- Maine CDC Hepatitis website <http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/hepatitis>
- Federal CDC's Hepatitis A website <http://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/HAV/index.htm>
- ACIP Hepatitis A vaccine recommendations: <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/acip-recs/vacc-specific/hepa.html>