

REVISED Hep A Post-Exposure Prophylaxis for Management of Hepatitis A Outbreak associated with recalled Costco frozen berries

2016 April 22

To: Health Care Providers (Primary Care; Nurse Practitioners; Pediatrics; Emergency Depts)

Please be advised that recommendations for post-exposure prophylaxis have been updated to reflect newly released recommendations from the National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) - April 2016.

Recommendation for post-exposure prophylaxis

If within two weeks of last exposure:

- **Everyone 6 months of age and over, including pregnant and breast-feeding women**, should be offered hepatitis A vaccine as soon as possible (unless contraindicated, fully immunized in the past or already immune - see below for details).
 - Hepatitis A vaccine is not authorized for children less than 1 year of age, however, NACI has recently recommended its off-label use for children 6 months to 1 year of age.
- **Infants <6 months of age** require no intervention except for careful attention to hygiene when diapering etc. to prevent fecal oral spread. Considerations should be given to offering hepatitis A vaccine to their family members.
 - Immune globulin, which was previously recommended for infants, is generally not recommended, although could be considered on a case by case basis in infants less than 6 months of age who are at very high risk for liver complications (e.g. severe liver disease)

Individuals with chronic liver disease should be offer hepatitis A vaccine if within two weeks of last exposure (unless contraindicated, fully immunized in the past or already immune - see below for details), and advised to consult with their health care provider for advice regarding the need for serum immune globulin.

- If beyond 14 days of exposure, previously unimmunized individuals with chronic liver conditions should be offered hepatitis A vaccine as per routine recommendations

Only **one** dose of hepatitis vaccine is required for post-exposure prophylaxis. For long term immunity, as would be needed for future travel, a second dose is recommended.

Please be advised that publicly funded hepatitis A vaccine is available for exposed individuals by attending one of the Costco immunization clinics or alternatively, an appointment can be booked at Hastings Prince Edward Public Health by calling 613-966-5500 x313.

For further information please contact the Communicable Disease Intake line at 613-966-5500 x349.

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