

March 23, 2018

Dear Colleagues,

**Re: Hepatitis A activity in Edmonton Zone**

The Medical Officer of Health (MOH) has issued a public notification related to a case of hepatitis A who, while infectious, worked in the cafeteria at the Grey Nuns Community Hospital.

Our messaging has not suggested that asymptomatic exposed persons seek information or care from a physician, but some individuals may choose to do so. This Memorandum should help you with any individuals who do present to you in association with this exposure.

**Was your patient been exposed to Hepatitis A?**

Individuals who may have been exposed to Hepatitis A and may be at risk for disease include:

- those who ate or drank items at the Grey Nun's Community Hospital cafeteria between February 26 - March 10, 2018 and March 13 - 18, 2018 and;
- in-patients who received food service to their rooms on February 26 & 27 and March 1, 3, 4, 7, and 15<sup>th</sup>, 2018.

**Is your patient susceptible to Hepatitis A?**

Protection against Hepatitis A is assumed under the following circumstances:

- history of confirmed hepatitis A disease
- completion of a series of hepatitis A vaccine as per current [Alberta Immunization Program Standards Manual](#) (IPSM)
- received one dose of hepatitis A vaccine between one and six months prior to exposure
- received hepatitis A immunoglobulin within the last three to five months prior to exposure
  - A dose of 0.1 mL/kg is effective for less than or equal to one month.
  - A dose of 0.2 mL/kg is effective for less than or equal to two months.

**Is your patient eligible for post-exposure prophylaxis?**

If your patient was exposed to the case of Hepatitis A, is susceptible (not protected) and they were last exposed **less** than 2 weeks prior to presenting, they are eligible for a single dose of publicly funded hepatitis A vaccine to provide protection against the development of disease. Please advise eligible patients to call Health Link @ 811 to be directed to the public immunization clinic for this exposure.

If your patient was exposed to the case of Hepatitis A, is susceptible (not protected) and they were last exposed **more** than 2 weeks prior to presenting, the vaccine will not prevent the development of disease and therefore symptom monitoring is recommended for up to 50 days after their last known exposure.

**Is your patient suspect for Hepatitis A disease?**

If your patient was potentially exposed to the case as defined above and now has symptoms suggestive of Hepatitis A please call 780-342-0194 (or after hours at 780-433-3940) to report to the Medical Officer of Health. Your patient will require Public Health follow up if they test positive for disease. In addition, please order Hepatitis A serology (both IgM and IgG) on a ProVLab requisition <https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/frm-ch-0039.pdf> and include the following public health investigation number on the requisition: EI # 2018-282.



Patients with hepatitis A should be advised to stay home while they are acutely ill or symptomatic. To avoid transmitting infection to others they should practice diligent hand washing and diligent cleaning and disinfection of high touch areas in bathrooms and kitchens. They should also avoid preparing food for anyone during the period of communicability which is 14 days prior to symptom onset to 7 days after onset of jaundice.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. This letter has been posted on the Edmonton Zone MOH webpage [www.albertahealthservices.ca/medstaff/ezmoh.aspx](http://www.albertahealthservices.ca/medstaff/ezmoh.aspx)

If you have further questions please contact the MOH on-call during business hours at 780-342-0194 or after hours at 780-433-3940.

Sincerely,

Jasmine Hasselback MD, MPH, FRCPC  
Medical Officer of Health  
Alberta Health Services – Edmonton Zone