

HALTON REGION PUBLIC HEALTH • Office of the Medical Officer of Health

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TO: Halton Physicians, Nurse Practitioners, Emergency Departments, other Healthcare Providers

FROM: Dr. Deepika Lobo, Associate Medical Officer of Health

DATE: May 12, 2023

RE: Hepatitis A in Food Handler at Milton Golf Club

QUICK FACTS

- A food handler with hepatitis A, worked while infectious (April 20 - May 2, 2023) at the **Rattlesnake Point Golf Club, 5407 Regional Rd 25, Milton, ON, L9T 2X5.**
- The risk of transmission is low. However, individuals who ate or drank at the **Clubhouse Bistro** on the dates below should monitor for signs and symptoms of hepatitis A for up to 50 days from the date of their exposure.
 - April 20, 22, 23
 - April 25-27
 - April 29-30
 - May 2
- Hepatitis A vaccine given **within 14 days of exposure** may prevent disease. Individuals who were exposed at the Bistro on April 29, April 30, and May 2, are within 14 days of exposure. They can get the vaccine at the free immunization clinics (no appointment needed) being held at 550 Ontario St S, Milton on the following three days:
 - Friday, May 12 from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.
 - Saturday, May 13 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
 - Monday, May 15 from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.
- For individuals who are not able to attend the immunization clinics, and are still eligible to receive the hepatitis A vaccine, please contact Halton Region Public Health by calling 311.

KEY MESSAGES FOR HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS

- Consider hepatitis A in patients with compatible symptoms including fever, malaise, loss of appetite, nausea/vomiting, dark urine, and abdominal pain followed by jaundice or elevated aminotransferase levels.
- Persons with a history of lab-confirmed hepatitis A infection in the past or documented two doses of hepatitis A vaccine are considered immune.
- If hepatitis A infection is suspected, please order IgG and IgM serology by selecting “immune status” and “acute infection” for hepatitis A on a Public Health Laboratory requisition.
- **Please report clinical diagnoses of hepatitis A to Halton Region Public Health by calling 311.** This will enable prompt follow up with the case and coordination of post-exposure prophylaxis for eligible contacts.

KEY MESSAGES FOR PATIENTS

- If you were exposed more than 14 days ago, monitor for signs and symptoms. The incubation period ranges from 15 to 50 days (average 28 to 30 days).
- Household members and close contacts of hepatitis A cases are eligible to receive one dose of publicly-funded hepatitis A vaccine for post-exposure prophylaxis. When given within 14 days, this may prevent the development of disease after being exposed.
- To develop full immunity a second dose of vaccine is required after six months of taking the first dose. This second dose is not publicly-funded.
- Some individuals who are at increased risk of infection are also eligible to receive pre-exposure Hepatitis A vaccine. Please refer to the current [Publicly Funded Immunization Schedules for Ontario](#).

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- [Halton Region Media Release, May 12, 2023, includes clinic information.](#)
- [Public Health Ontario Laboratory: Hepatitis A Serology](#)

Please report all suspected/confirmed cases of [Diseases of Public Health Significance](#) (only report COVID-19 cases occurring in high-risk settings) to Public Health immediately by calling 311, 905-825-6000 or toll free at 1-866-442-5866.

PLEASE PROVIDE A COPY TO ALL PHYSICIANS IN YOUR OFFICE AND/OR POST IN EMERGENCY DEPARTMENTS AND PHYSICIAN LOUNGES. IF YOU HAVE ANY ISSUES WITH THIS ATTACHMENT, PLEASE EMAIL DOCTORS@HALTON.CA.