



For Immediate Release:

December 2, 2010

Questions & Answers about hepatitis A exposure at Jerry's Deli, Westwood

1. How many Jerry's Deli locations are affected? How many employees are affected?

Only one employee at the Westwood location of Jerry's Famous Deli, 10925 Weyburn Ave, was diagnosed with hepatitis A in November. No other locations are affected.

Jerry's Deli, Westwood location, has **not** been closed, and there is no reason not to eat at this facility. Public Health teams have carefully inspected the restaurant and found that its food safety practice meets high standards. Additionally, Public Health continues to work with the management at Jerry's Deli to prevent the spread of this illness.

The employee diagnosed with hepatitis A is no longer contagious. There is no risk to any person who ate sandwiches or other foods prepared at the Jerry's Deli, Westwood location, after November 24.

2. What menu items are affected?

Only sandwiches; the worker diagnosed with hepatitis A prepared sandwiches that were either served in the restaurant or catered. No other menu items are affected.

3. I ate a sandwich at the Westwood location. What should I do?

Patrons need to have immune globulin (IG) or vaccine within 14 days after they ate a sandwich at Jerry's Deli in Westwood or if they ate a sandwich catered by Jerry's Deli in Westwood on the following dates: **November 18, 21, 23 or 24.**

- Those who ate on November 18 need to receive a shot by December 2.
- Those who ate on November 21 need to receive a shot by December 5.
- Those who ate on November 23 need to receive a shot by December 7.
- Those who ate on November 24 need to receive a shot by December 8.
- There is no risk to any person who ate food prepared **after** November 24.

4. Where do I get IG or the hepatitis A vaccine?

IG shots or vaccine can be obtained from personal physicians, public health and medical clinics, and emergency rooms. A list of Public Health centers offering IG or hepatitis A vaccine between December 2 -8 can be found on www.publichealth.lacounty.gov.

Patrons who already have been vaccinated against Hepatitis A or have received IG within the last three months or have ever had laboratory confirmed infection with the hepatitis A virus do not need IG or vaccine. They are already immune to hepatitis A.



5. What if I ate at Jerry’s Deli before November 18?

Patrons who had sandwiches from Jerry’s Famous Deli in Westwood between November 12th and November 17th may have been exposed to hepatitis A but, it is too late to receive IG or vaccine to prevent illness. If you experience any of the symptoms of hepatitis A, see your doctor or a health care provider.

6. What is hepatitis A?

Hepatitis A is a liver disease caused by hepatitis A virus, and is spread from person-to-person through close physical contact or through fecal contamination of food or drink.

7. What are the symptoms of hepatitis A?

Persons with hepatitis A virus infection may not have any signs or symptoms of the disease. Older persons are more likely to have symptoms than children. If symptoms are present, they usually occur abruptly and may include:

- Fever
- Tiredness
- Loss of appetite
- Nausea
- Abdominal discomfort
- Dark urine
- Jaundice (yellowing of the skin and eyes).

Symptoms usually last less than 2 months; a few persons are ill for as long as 6 months.

8. How do I know if I have hepatitis A?

A blood test (IgM anti-HAV) is needed to diagnose hepatitis A. This test should only be positive if you have recent infection.

9. How can hepatitis A be prevented?

Always wash your hands after using the bathroom, changing a diaper, or before preparing or eating food.

For more information on the hepatitis A exposure at Jerry’s Deli, Westwood, visit the Public Health website at www.publichealth.lacounty.gov.

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