



LAC DPH Health Alert
Hepatitis A outbreak associated with Townsend Farms Organic Antioxidant Blend
Frozen Berries from Costco

June 3, 2013

Please share this alert with clinical staff in primary care, urgent care, emergency medicine, and infectious diseases.

Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (LAC DPH) is collaborating with the California Department of Public Health, the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention, other states, and the US Food and Drug Administration to investigate an outbreak of hepatitis A first identified in Colorado and New Mexico. Epidemiological data suggest that *Townsend Farms Organic Antioxidant Blend Frozen Berries*, purchased from Costco, is the food vehicle responsible for this outbreak. No other product is considered to be at risk at this time. As of June 3rd, at least 30 cases are being investigated nationwide. In California, seven confirmed illnesses in persons who consumed this product have been reported from Humboldt, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino (2), Los Angeles (1) and San Diego counties. Three of these individuals have been hospitalized. No deaths have been reported.

LAC DPH is recommending that people who have consumed this product and aren't already immune due to prior illness or vaccination be offered post exposure prophylaxis (PEP) if it can be provided within two weeks from the time of last exposure.

Guidance for clinicians on hepatitis A PEP is posted on the LAC DPH website:
<http://www.publichealth.lacounty.gov/docs/PEPGuidanceMay2013.pdf>

Key points:

1. Risk is limited to persons who consumed the one specific product from Townsend Farms
2. Exposed individuals may benefit from post-exposure prophylaxis up to two weeks after their exposure

3. Hepatitis A vaccine is recommended as PEP for persons 1-40 years of age. Immune globulin (IG) is recommended for persons over 40 years of age; however, if IG is in short supply hepatitis A vaccine may be used instead.
4. Confirmed or suspected cases of hepatitis A should be reported within 1 working day to the LAC DPH Acute Communicable Disease Control at (888) 397-3993 or by FAX to (888) 397-3778

Clinicians should refer to the above referenced Hepatitis A Post Exposure Prophylaxis Guidance for more detailed hepatitis A PEP resources (also attached).

Affected persons have been encouraged to seek hepatitis A PEP through their personal physicians. LAC DPH is making IG and vaccine available through certain clinics. A list of these Public Health clinics, dates and locations can be found on the DPH website at www.publichealth.lacounty.gov or by calling the LA County Info line at 211.

Visit CDC webpage for more information on the multistate outbreak hepatitis A outbreak: <http://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/Outbreaks/2013/A1b-03-31/index.html>