



NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE
Thomas Farley, MD, MPH
Commissioner

2013 Alert # 36

Potential Exposure to Hepatitis A in Patrons of New Hawaii Sea Restaurant in Pelham-Throgs Neck Section of the Bronx

Please Share this Alert with All Clinical Staff in Internal Medicine, Pediatrics, Obstetrics, Emergency Medicine, Primary Care, Infectious Diseases, Family Medicine, and Infection Control

- Five cases of hepatitis A have been associated with the **New Hawaii Sea** restaurant, located at 1475 Williamsbridge Road, Bronx, NY 10461
- The Health Department recommends that all people who ate any food from the New Hawaii Sea restaurant between September 7-19, 2013 receive hepatitis A vaccine as soon as possible
- Restaurant patrons may be treated at their medical provider's office according to the recommendations below, or they may receive the vaccine at a special clinic operated by the Health Department.

September 20, 2013

Dear Providers,

The New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene is investigating an outbreak of hepatitis A infections associated with the New Hawaii Sea restaurant located at 1475 Williamsbridge Road in the Pelham-Throgs Neck section of the Bronx. To date, we have confirmed five cases, including one employee and four customers.

The Health Department recommends that all people who ate food prepared by the restaurant—regardless if it was consumed at the restaurant, at a catered event, or in the home—between September 7-19, 2013 receive hepatitis A vaccine. Any leftover food from this restaurant should also be discarded. Any patrons who ate food from this restaurant before September 7, 2013 should be evaluated for hepatitis A if they have symptoms suggestive of infection.

Vaccination Clinics

The Health Department will offer free hepatitis A vaccinations to store patrons and employees. Patients who have health insurance should bring their insurance information. Patients who do not have health insurance will receive vaccine free of charge. Health Department clinics will be open at:

Herbert Lehman High School, 3000 East Tremont Avenue, Bronx, NY 10461
Saturday, September 21, 2013 from 2-8 pm
Sunday, September 22, 2013 from 2-8 pm

Information about additional vaccine clinic hours and locations is available through 311. Restaurant patrons may also receive vaccine at their private physician's office.

Contraindications to hepatitis A vaccine include history of reaction to the vaccine or vaccine components. Special considerations should be taken for two populations: women who are pregnant and people with immune-compromising conditions.

Pregnancy

In women who are pregnant, gamma globulin is preferred over hepatitis A vaccination. The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices says, "Hepatitis A vaccine should not be administered to persons with a history of a severe allergic reaction to a previous dose of hepatitis A vaccine or to a vaccine component. The safety of hepatitis A vaccination during pregnancy has not been determined; however, because hepatitis A vaccine is produced from inactivated hepatitis A virus, the theoretic risk to the developing fetus is expected to be low. The risk associated with vaccination should be weighed against the risk for hepatitis A in pregnant women who might be at high risk for exposure to hepatitis A virus." The Health Department vaccine clinic will not be giving vaccine or gamma globulin to pregnant women.

Immune-compromised persons

Because hepatitis A vaccine is inactivated, no special precautions need to be taken when vaccinating immune-compromised persons. Nevertheless, we recommend that individuals with immune-compromising conditions who ate at the restaurant during the specified period consult with their physicians about receiving both vaccine and gamma globulin.

Reporting Cases

For the next six weeks, providers should suspect hepatitis A infection in any ill persons who report having eaten food from this restaurant. When evaluating for hepatitis A, clinicians should test for hepatitis A IgM. Confirmed cases should be promptly reported, especially the occurrence of hepatitis A in a person who does not report recent travel to an endemic country.

Providers should call **1-866-692-3641** to report cases.

Additional information on hepatitis A can be found at the CDC website at <http://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/HAV/index.htm>.

Sincerely,

Sharon Balter

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