



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

2013 Alert # 33

ALERT: Possible Exposure to Hepatitis A in Patrons of the Westside Market on Broadway between 97th and 98th Street

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

A food handler who works at the **Westside Market** at 2589 Broadway, between 97th and 98th St. in Manhattan has been diagnosed with hepatitis A infection. Currently, there have been no reports of hepatitis A in customers or additional employees.

- DOHMH is recommending that all people who ate chopped, ready-to-eat, fresh fruit from this Westside Market between August 9 – August 22 receive hepatitis A vaccine as soon as possible
- DOHMH is offering a free clinic for vaccine (Information below). Patients may also be treated at their private doctor's office according to the recommendations below.

August 22, 2013

Dear Providers,

The New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene is investigating a case of hepatitis A in a food handler who primarily chopped fruits at the Westside Market in Manhattan. Fruits involved include all fresh cut fruits packaged in plastic containers and sold in the refrigerated case immediately to the left as you enter the store (including watermelon cut into halves and quarters, peeled whole pineapples and shelled and cut coconut). Therefore, we are recommending that all people who ate chopped, ready-to-eat fruit (pre-packaged) from the Westside Market between 97th and 98th street on Broadway in Manhattan between August 9th and August 22nd receive hepatitis A vaccine. Exposed persons should be vaccinated within 2 weeks of their last exposure. Persons who have received hepatitis A vaccine in the past or have documented evidence of prior infection do not need to be re-vaccinated and should be protected.

The Health Department will offer free hepatitis A vaccinations to store patrons and employees who ate the pre-packaged fruit. Patients who have insurance should bring their insurance card. Patients who do not have insurance will receive the vaccine free of charge. The clinic will be open starting Friday, August 23rd at 2 pm at MS 258: Community Action School located at 154 West 93rd Street in Manhattan and will be open through Monday, August 26th during the following dates and times:

MS 258 at 93rd and Amsterdam Hepatitis A Vaccine Clinic Hours

Friday	2 pm - 8 pm
Saturday	10 am - 2 pm
Sunday	2 pm - 6 pm
Monday	2 pm - 8 pm

Additional information about the clinic location and hours is available through 311. Store patrons may also receive vaccine at their private physician's office. Although one dose of hepatitis A vaccine should provide sufficient protection after an exposure, a 2nd dose in 6th months is required for full protection for those who meet criteria for routine vaccination against hepatitis A. Contraindications to hepatitis A vaccine include history of reaction to the vaccine or vaccine components, in particular neomycin and latex.

Safety in pregnancy has not been determined. In pregnant women, gamma globulin is preferred over hepatitis A vaccination. The CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices recommends that 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 (HAV), the theoretical 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 HAV. Because hepatitis A vaccine is inactivated, no special precautions need to be taken when vaccinating immunocompromised persons.

Two inactivated Hepatitis A vaccines are licensed and available in the United States: Havrix[®] (GlaxoSmith Kline) and Vaqta[®] (Merck). Both vaccines are available in pediatric (approved for use in persons 12 months through 18 years) and adult formulations (approved for persons 19 years and older). Hepatitis A is routinely recommended for children starting at 12 months of age; approximately half of children 19-35 months of age have received two doses of hepatitis A vaccine. For exposed children, consider checking the child's immunization record, either in the medical record or the Citywide Immunization Registry, to see if they have previously been vaccinated. Go to <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/pinkbook/hepa.html> for more information on hepatitis A vaccine.

For the next 6 weeks, DOHMH asks providers to suspect hepatitis A in any patrons of this market and to report cases promptly. Cases can be reported to us via the Provider Access Line at 1-866-692-3641. As always, we appreciate your continued assistance in addressing emerging disease issues.

Sincerely,

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