

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

TEL: 905-825-6000 • TOLL FREE: 1-866-332-5866 • FAX: 905-825-1444

TO: Halton Physicians, Nurse Practitioners, Emergency Departments

FROM: Dr. Joanna Oda, Associate Medical Officer of Health

DATE: January 8, 2020

RE: **Hepatitis A in Food Handler**

---

## QUICK FACTS

- A food handler with Hepatitis A worked while infectious at Kerr Street Café Restaurant, 298 Kerr Street, Oakville, ON, L6K 3B3 at the following dates and times:
  - December 15, 8:00am – 4:00pm
  - December 18, 12:00pm – 5:00pm
  - December 20, 6:00am – 2:00pm
  - December 21, 8:00am – 4:00pm
  - December 23, 9:00am – 4:00pm
  - December 28, 8:30am – 4:00pm
  - December 30, 12:00pm – 4:00pm
- People who ate at Kerr Street Cafe during these times should monitor for signs and symptoms of Hepatitis A.
- Hepatitis A vaccine given within 14 days of exposure may prevent disease. For patrons who ate at the restaurant on December 28 or December 30, free immunization clinics will be held on January 11 and 12, from 9:00am to 3:00pm at 1151 Bronte Rd, Oakville. No appointment needed.
- The case also worked at two private catered events. Guests at these events have been notified by the Health Department and advised to monitor for symptoms as the opportunity for vaccine has passed.

## KEY MESSAGES FOR HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS

- Consider Hepatitis A in patients with compatible symptoms, including: fever, malaise, loss of appetite, nausea, dark urine and abdominal pain followed by jaundice or elevated aminotransferase levels.
- Persons with a history of lab-confirmed Hepatitis A or two doses of Hepatitis A vaccine are considered immune.
- If Hepatitis A infection is suspected, please order IgG and IgM by selecting “immune status” and “acute infection” for Hepatitis A on a Public Health Laboratory requisition
- **Please report clinical diagnoses of Hepatitis A to the Health Department by calling 311.** This will enable prompt follow up with the case and arrange for 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 and close contacts of Hepatitis A cases are eligible to receive 1 dose of publicly-funded Hepatitis A vaccine for post-exposure prophylaxis.
- 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, January 7, 2020, includes clinic information.](#)
- [Public Health Ontario Laboratory: Hepatitis A Serology.](#)

Please report all suspected/confirmed cases of [Diseases of Public Health Significance](#) (including positive TB skin test results) to Public Health immediately by calling 311, 905-825-6000 or toll free at 1-866-442-5866.

PLEASE POST IN EMERGENCY DEPARTMENTS AND PHYSICIAN LOUNGES

IF YOU CAN'T ACCESS HYPERLINKS, PLEASE SIGN UP FOR ELECTRONIC UPDATES BY EMAILING DOCTORS@HALTON.CA