

HALTON REGION HEALTH DEPARTMENT  
OFFICE OF THE ASSOCIATE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
TEL: 905-825-6000 FAX: 905-825-1444

TO: Halton Physicians  
Medical Chiefs of Staff: Joseph Brant Hospital, Halton Healthcare (Oakville, Milton and Georgetown Hospitals)  
Chairs of: Family Practice, Paediatrics, Internal Medicine, Emergency, Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Surgery  
Chief of Laboratory Services and Infection Control Practitioners  
Halton Midwives

POST IN: Emergency Department and Physicians Lounge

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

DATE: September 19, 2019

**RE: Outbreak of Hepatitis A in School of Oakville Declared Over**

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On June 14, 2019, you received a communication regarding an outbreak of Hepatitis A at Oakwood Public School in Oakville. Since there have been no cases for more than 14 weeks, the outbreak has been declared over, effective September 18, 2019. Please do not use the outbreak number (provided in our prior communication) for any further testing.

There were 5 confirmed cases of Hepatitis A associated with this outbreak. The index case was travel related. Managing this outbreak involved many public health staff members collaborating with the school, the parent community and health care providers. Thank you for your attention and efforts to protect the health and safety of Halton residents.

Hepatitis A infection occurs sporadically in Halton. Anti-HAV IgM antibodies are generally detectable in serum/plasma 5 to 10 days before symptom onset. Please report clinical diagnoses of Hepatitis A to the Health Department by calling 311. This will enable the Health Department to promptly follow up with a case and arrange for post-exposure prophylaxis for eligible contacts.

**Prevention**

- Household and close contacts of Hepatitis A cases are eligible to receive 1 dose of publicly funded Hepatitis A vaccine for post-exposure prophylaxis. The Health Department may request your assistance to administer vaccine to contacts.
- Some individuals who are at increased risk of infection are eligible to receive publicly funded pre-exposure Hepatitis A vaccine. Please refer to the current [Publicly Funded Immunization Schedules for Ontario](http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/immunization/docs/immunization_schedule.pdf) ([http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/immunization/docs/immunization\\_schedule.pdf](http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/immunization/docs/immunization_schedule.pdf)) for additional details. Hepatitis A vaccine is available for special order online at halton.ca (<https://www.halton.ca/For-Business/Information-for-Physicians/Vaccine-Information/Special-Order-Vaccine-Online-Request-Form>)
- Hepatitis A is often acquired while travelling outside of Canada. Please encourage travelling patients to seek advice regarding immunization prior to departure.

Please report all suspected or confirmed cases of [Diseases of Public Health Significance](#) (formerly Reportable Diseases) to the Halton Region Health Department as soon as possible. Diseases marked \* should be reported immediately by telephone (24 hours a day, 7 days a week) or fax (Mon-Fri, 8:30 am – 4:30 pm only). Other diseases can be reported the next working day. Call 311, 905-825-6000 or toll free at 1-866-442-5866. For general information, please visit [halton.ca](http://halton.ca).

**If any link provided in this memo does not work, please cut and paste it into your web browser.**