



Date: November 3, 2016
To: CAHAN San Diego Participants
From: Public Health Services, Epidemiology Program

Potential Hepatitis A Exposure, Imported Egyptian Strawberries

CAHAN participants are asked to review the attached [provider advisory](#) from the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) about a [recall](#) of frozen strawberries from Egypt potentially contaminated with hepatitis A virus (HAV).

The recalled products were not sold directly to the public, but were distributed to 2,961 food service providers in California. There are 290 San Diego locations that received the recalled products and may have provided them to customers in items such as smoothies and desserts. A zip code list of California retailers that received the products is attached with San Diego County locations on pages 48-64. An alphabetical listing is also available:

<http://www.cdpb.ca.gov/pubsforms/Documents/fdbFrICAPP1d.pdf>

The [CDPH advisory](#) has a screening tool to assist providers in determining if an individual who ate a strawberry-containing food item at one of the listed retailers may need [HAV post-exposure prophylaxis](#).

Other healthcare provider recommendations:

1. Be alert for suspect cases of HAV, especially in patients with a history of consuming food items containing the recalled strawberries. Clinical jaundice may be a late sign or one that never develops, particularly in children.
2. Order HAV IgM antibody serology rather than HAV total antibody serology when working up patients for acute disease. Total HAV antibody positivity may indicate immunity due to previous infection or immunization and is not sufficient evidence of an acute infection.
3. Avoid testing people who have no symptoms or elevated liver function tests, but report eating recalled strawberries. False positive HAV IgM test results are common when asymptomatic people are tested.
4. Advise patients in sensitive occupations not to work with suspected or confirmed HAV infection. Persons employed in food service, health care, or child care should not be allowed to work in these settings for at least one week after jaundice onset or two weeks after symptom onset (if no jaundice), whichever is later. These persons are at increased risk of spreading the infection to others via the fecal-oral route.
5. Promptly report all suspect and confirmed HAV cases to the Epidemiology Program at 619-692-8499 during business hours Monday through Friday, or 858-565-5255 after-hours on evenings, weekends, and County-observed holidays.

Thank you for your participation.

CAHAN San Diego

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