

July 19, 2019

Dear Health Care Provider:

The Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit (SMDHU) is currently investigating a confirmed case of hepatitis A in a food handler who worked, while communicable, at the State & Main restaurant located at 467 Cundles Road East in Barrie.

SMDHU is asking staff and patrons of the restaurant to discuss post exposure prophylaxis with their health care provider. The dates and times of potential exposure are as follows:

- Friday, June 21<sup>st</sup> 5:00pm - 10:30pm
- Thursday, June 27<sup>th</sup> 4:30pm - 10:30pm
- Friday, June 28<sup>th</sup> 10:30am - 10:30pm
- Saturday, June 29<sup>th</sup> 4:30pm - 9:30pm
- Thursday, July 4<sup>th</sup> 5:30pm - 8:45pm
- Friday, July 5<sup>th</sup> 6:30pm - midnight
- Wednesday, July 10<sup>th</sup> 3:30pm - 8:30pm
- Thursday, July 11<sup>th</sup> 4:30pm – 9:00pm

Typically, hepatitis A is an acute, self-limiting liver infection. Clinical presentation varies with age. Infection is usually asymptomatic in children, and jaundice develops in <10% of children six years and under. Symptoms may start 15 to 50 days after exposure and usually resolve on their own.

Typically, acute clinical illness is characterized by:

- 1 to 7 day prodrome of abrupt onset fever, malaise, anorexia, nausea and abdominal pain followed by jaundice.
- Dark urine and light-colored stools, as well as pruritus may occur, and an enlarged liver may be seen.
- Extra-hepatic complications may occur.
- It has been reported that between 3% and 20% of cases may experience relapsing disease.
- Fulminant hepatitis and death are rare. There is usually complete recovery without complications or sequelae. Chronic infection is not known to occur.

**Testing recommendations for symptomatic staff or patrons include**, serology tests indicating IgM anti-HAV antibodies confirms recent infection. Antibodies are generally detectable in serum 5 - 10 days after infection and usually decrease to undetectable levels within 6 months after onset of infection. In rare cases, they may persist for longer. Detection of IgG antibodies signals recovery from acute Hepatitis A infection. When IgG antibodies are detected alone they indicate some level of immunity either from past infection or previous immunization.

“Total hepatitis A virus antibody” (total IgM and IgG antibody) is not a confirmatory test for acute HAV infection but is used as an initial screening test in some laboratories. For further information about Hepatitis A IgM and IgG human diagnostic testing, contact the Public Health Ontario Laboratories or refer to the Public Health Ontario Laboratory Services webpage:

[http://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/ServicesAndTools/LaboratoryServices/Pages/Hepatitis\\_A\\_Diagnostic\\_Serology.aspx#.VxT6K45VhXs](http://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/ServicesAndTools/LaboratoryServices/Pages/Hepatitis_A_Diagnostic_Serology.aspx#.VxT6K45VhXs)

**Barrie:**  
15 Sperling Drive  
Barrie, ON  
L4M 6K9  
705-721-7520  
FAX: 705-721-1495

**Collingwood:**  
280 Pretty River Pkwy.  
Collingwood, ON  
L9Y 4J5  
705-445-0804  
FAX: 705-445-6498

**Cookstown:**  
2-25 King Street S.  
Cookstown, ON  
L0L 1L0  
705-458-1103  
FAX: 705-458-0105

**Gravenhurst:**  
2-5 Pineridge Gate  
Gravenhurst, ON  
P1P 1Z3  
705-684-9090  
FAX: 705-684-9887

**Huntsville:**  
34 Chaffey St.  
Huntsville, ON  
P1H 1K1  
705-789-8813  
FAX: 705-789-7245

**Midland:**  
B-865 Hugel Ave.  
Midland, ON  
L4R 1X8  
705-526-9324  
FAX: 705-526-1513

**Orillia:**  
120-169 Front St. S.  
Orillia, ON  
L3V 4S8  
705-325-9565  
FAX: 705-325-2091

For testing ordered on staff and patrons related to this State & Main food handler situation, please add the following investigation number **SMD-2019-001** to the requisition.

A HealthFax regarding this situation together with post exposure and testing recommendations is available on the SMDHU website at

<http://www.simcoemuskokahealth.org/JFY/HPPortal/ResourcesTools/HealthFAX.aspx> .

For further information regarding hepatitis A, to coordinate access to immunoglobulin or to report a suspect or confirmed case of hepatitis A, please contact the Infectious Diseases team at (705) 721-7520 extension 8809 during business hours or after hours to 1-888-225-7851.

Sincerely,

***original signed by:***

Charles Gardner, MD, CCFP, MHSc, FRCPC  
Medical Officer of Health

CG/cec