

March 25, 2020

Dear Health Care Provider:

The Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit (SMDHU) is currently investigating a second confirmed case of Hepatitis A in a food handler who worked, while communicable, at the Family Place Restaurant and Pizza in Huntsville.

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:

- March 12: 8 a.m. – 2 p.m.
- March 13: 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.
- March 15: 8 a.m. – 2 p.m.

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 and 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 six months after onset of infection. In rare cases, antibodies may persist for a longer period of time. 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

For testing ordered on staff and patrons related to this Hepatitis A case at the Family Place Restaurant and Pizza, please add the following investigation number **2260-2020-086** 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:

Colin Q-T Lee MD, MSc, CCFP(EM),FRCPC
Associate Medical Officer of Health

CL/cec