

Dr. Charles Gardner, Medical Officer of Health
Dr. Colin Lee, Associate Medical Officer of Health
Dr. Lisa Simon, Associate Medical Officer of Health

Hepatitis A Case in a Barrie Food Handler Post Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP) Immunization and Testing Recommendations

Attention: Physicians, Hospitals, CNE, ER Manager, ER Physician, Infection Control Practitioners, Occupational Health Professionals, Community Health Centres, Walk-In Urgent Care Clinic, Nurse Practitioner, Ontario Health, Ontario Health Teams, Midwives, Family Health Team, Indigenous Healthcare & Community, Long-Term Care Homes, Retirement Homes, Neighbouring Health Units, Paramedic Services, Corrections

Date: June 13, 2025

A food handler working at **Tim Hortons located at 181 Livingstone Street East in Barrie, ON** has been identified as a confirmed case of hepatitis A. **The person worked during part of their infectious period between May 17th and June 3rd.** Although the risk of transmission is low, customers and staff who are not previously immune to Hepatitis A should monitor for signs and symptoms of the infection during the incubation period of 15 to 50 days after the potential exposure.

Post Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP):

The Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit (SMDHU) is recommending post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) with hepatitis A vaccine for non-immune staff and patrons who worked or consumed food or beverage from the restaurant during the dates and times noted in the table below. The latest staff and patrons are recommended/eligible for PEP is 14 days after the last exposure. People who have previously received two (2) doses of Hepatitis A only vaccine or a complete series of Hep A/Hep B combination vaccine (Twinrix® or Twinrix Junior®) are protected and do not require additional doses.

Customers who visited this location between May 17th and May 29th are no longer recommended/eligible for PEP immunization and should monitor for symptoms of disease for 15 to 50 days after the potential exposure.

Date and time food or drink was purchased from Tim Hortons 181 Livingstone Street East Barrie	Last date to receive post exposure immunization
May 30, 2025 from 6am-2:30pm	June 13, 2025
May 31, 2025 from 4:30am-12:30pm	June 14, 2025
June 1, 2025 from 4:30am-10:30am	June 15, 2025
June 3, 2025 from 6:00 am-2:00pm	June 17, 2025



For those previously vaccinated with hepatitis A vaccine:

- If two previous doses were provided, no additional doses are recommended.
- If only one dose was provided and it was less than six months ago, no additional doses are recommended until at least six months from the last dose.
- If only one dose was provided and it was greater than six months ago, one additional dose is recommended

The health unit will be coordinating hepatitis A immunization clinics for susceptible and eligible staff and patrons as per the table above at the SMDHU Barrie Office (15 Sperling Drive, Barrie) on:

- Friday June 13 from 4pm – 7pm
- Saturday June 14 from 9am – 4pm
- Sunday June 15 from 9am – 4pm
- Monday June 16 from 12pm -7pm
- Tuesday June 17 from 12pm – 7pm

Hepatitis A infection:

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 6 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:

If your patient has signs and symptoms of Hepatitis A illness, 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: <https://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/Laboratory-Services/Test-Information-Index/Hepatitis-A-Serology>

For testing ordered on staff and patrons related to this Livingstone Tim Hortons situation please add the following investigation number SMD-2025-00001 to the requisition.

It would also be important to order liver function tests and other blood and imaging tests that you deem necessary to rule in or rule out Hepatitis A disease or other potential diagnoses.

For further information regarding hepatitis A 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.