

DATE: June 5, 2013
TO: Medical Providers
FROM: Karen Furst, MD, MPH, Health Officer

Please distribute to all medical providers in your office.

HEPATITIS A OUTBREAK Associated with Organic Antioxidant Blend of mixed berries

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) are investigating cases of acute hepatitis A virus infection in five states: Colorado, New Mexico, Nevada, Arizona, and California. (See CDC webpage <http://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/Outbreaks/2013/A1b-03-31/index.html>) The investigation has found the outbreak to be associated with 2 products which have been recalled:

- Townsend Farms Organic Antioxidant Blend sold through Costco stores primarily in the southwestern and west coast states. Costco has removed the product from their stores and is attempting to notifying customers who bought the product.
- The same blend which is sold under the product name Harris Teeter Organic Antioxidant Berry Blend through Harris Teeter grocery stores on the East Coast.

As of today there have been no cases identified in San Joaquin County. The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) has created a webpage to with information for the public and health professionals:

<http://www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/immunize/Pages/CommunicableDiseaseOutbreaks.aspx>

People who ate either of these products should be told to watch for symptoms of hepatitis: fever, fatigue, loss of appetite, nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain, dark urine, clay-colored bowel movements or jaundice. For susceptible patients, post exposure prophylaxis can prevent illness if given within 2 weeks of exposure.

Post Exposure Treatment for Hepatitis A virus (HAV)

Susceptible people who have been eaten these products should receive post exposure prophylaxis as soon as possible within 2 weeks of the most recent exposure as follows:

- People 6 months of age and older should receive a dose of single-agent HAV vaccine.
- If available and there is time within the 2 week window, Immune Globulin (IG) should be given along with the vaccine to anyone who is immunocompromised or has chronic liver disease. It may also be offered to anyone who is otherwise severely debilitated with other chronic illnesses or the elderly. (IG can be ordered for 2 day delivery from FFF Enterprise, 1-800-843-7477.)
- IG alone should be given to children under 6 months of age.
- Anyone who is incompletely immunized (i.e. only received one dose of HAV vaccine in the past) should complete the vaccine series.

If hepatitis A vaccine is not available in your office we understand that the vaccine is available through the Safeway or Raley's pharmacies, but patients should call first. Patients can also be referred to San Joaquin County Public Health Services at 468-3822. Cost of the vaccine at Public Health Services is \$38, but patients will not be turned away if they cannot pay. Patients with MediCal should bring their insurance cards.