



Health, Housing & Community Services Department
Public Health Division
(510) 981-5300

Janet Berreman, MD, MPH
Health Officer

Health Advisory

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Recall of Frozen Strawberries Potentially Contaminated with Hepatitis A

Please distribute to all providers in your practice

Current Situation:

The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) has issued an advisory for Hepatitis A due to a large recall of frozen Egyptian strawberries that have been distributed widely in the United States, including California and Berkeley, due to the possibility of hepatitis A virus (HAV) contamination. There have been no identified cases in Berkeley to date, and only one California case.

Background:

For the complete CDPH advisory please see the CDPH website at:

http://www.cdph.ca.gov/HealthInfo/discond/Documents/CDPH%20HAV%20Healthcare%20Provider%20Advisory_Nov%202016.pdf

For additional details about the investigation, please see the FDA website at:

<http://www.fda.gov/food/RecallsOutbreaksEmergencies/Outbreaks/ucm518775.htm>.

For information on product distribution in California, please see the CDPH website at:

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

Further recommendations:

1. Be alert for suspect cases of HAV, especially in patients with a history of consuming recalled strawberries. Clinical jaundice may be a late sign or one that never develops, particularly in children.
2. Promptly report all suspect and confirmed HAV cases to Berkeley Public Health at (510) 981-5300
3. 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.
4. 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.
5. Advise patients employed in food service or child care in sensitive occupations not to work with suspected or confirmed HAV infection. These persons are at increased risk of spreading the infection to others via the fecal-oral route.
6. Review patients' immunization records and offer indicated vaccines, including HAV vaccine.

Resources:

CDPH

<http://www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/immunize/Documents/CDPHHAVQuicksheet.pdf>

http://www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/immunize/Documents/CDPH_HAV%20PEP%20Clinical%20Guidance.pdf

<http://www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/immunize/Documents/CdphHavIGPepGuidance.pdf>

http://www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/Documents/HepA_PinkBook.pdf

City of Berkeley

http://www.ci.berkeley.ca.us/Health_Human_Services/Public_Health/Communicable_Disease_Reporting.aspx

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