



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Region IV Public Health
Clark, Cowlitz, Skamania, Wahkiakum counties
and Cowlitz Tribe

Health ADVISORY

Please deliver a copy of the accompanying alert to each provider in your organization.

Thank you

Questions regarding this alert may be directed to the office of:

Alan Melnick, MD, MPH
Health Officer

Clark County Public Health
Cowlitz County Health Department
Skamania County Health Department
Wahkiakum County Department of Health and Human Services
(360) 397-8412

Please Distribute

Categories of Health Alert messages:

Health Alert: conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention.

Health Advisory: provides important information for specific incident for situation; may not require immediate action.

Health Update: provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; no immediate action necessary.



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HEALTH ADVISORY

June 3, 2013

TO: Physicians and other Healthcare Providers

FROM: Alan Melnick, MD, MPH, CPH, Health Officer

RE: Hepatitis A Outbreak

The purpose of this advisory is to inform providers of a national outbreak of Hepatitis A virus associated with "Townsend Farms Organic Anti-Oxidant Blend" frozen berries sold at Costco. To date, 30 cases of Hepatitis A have been identified in residents from Colorado, New Mexico, Nevada, Arizona, and California. Costco is contacting all persons who purchased this product to notify them of potential exposure. Clark County residents have been contacted by Costco, so it appears that the berries might have sold locally. Although at this point the investigation has only identified Costco as the retailer, it is possible that other stores and venues sold this product.

Recommendations for physicians and other healthcare providers in Southwest Washington: Reporting

- Healthcare providers and hospitals are asked to report suspect hepatitis A infections who report consuming "Townsend Farms Organic Anti-Oxidant Blend" frozen berries immediately to their local public health department (see contact information below).

Exposure

- Exposed People Previously Vaccinated against Hepatitis A virus
 - People previously vaccinated, are considered immune and do not need any additional follow up.
- Exposed People NOT Previously Vaccinated against Hepatitis A virus
 - People who consumed berries in the previous 2 weeks should receive Hepatitis A vaccine or Immune Globulin (IG) if not previously vaccinated.
 - NOTE: IG is preferred for people > 40 years of age, but Hepatitis A vaccine is acceptable if IG is not available. . Completion of the Hepatitis A vaccine series can provide immunity for future exposures.
 - People who consumed berries greater than two weeks ago should be instructed to watch for signs and symptoms of hepatitis and to seek care immediately if they become symptomatic. They should also be vaccinated to provide immunity for future exposures.

For More Information

- CDC Outbreak information:
<http://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/Outbreaks/2013/A1b-03-31/index.html>

To report other notifiable conditions or if you have questions, please call:

- Clark County Public Health: (360) 397-8182
- Cowlitz County Health and Human Services: (360) 414-5599
- Skamania County Community Health: (509) 427-3850
- Wahkiakum County Health and Human Services (360) 795-6207

Thank you for your partnership.