MEDICAL ADVISORY
Hepatitis A – Frozen Mango Products Recall

To: Family Physicians within the City of Hamilton
Registered Nurses in the Extended Class (i.e. Nurse Practitioners) within the City of Hamilton
Emergency Departments
Infectious Disease Physicians
LTCH & RH Administrators/Directors of Care

For Your Information:
Central West Medical Officers of Health
Academy of Medicine
Dr. Michael Stacey, VP Medical, Hamilton Health Sciences
Mr. Bruce Squires, President, McMaster Children’s Hospital
Dr. David Russell, Chief of Staff, St. Joseph’s Healthcare
LHIN, Dr. Jennifer Everson, Jodi Sanders

FROM: Dr. Ninh Tran, Associate Medical Officer of Health

Date: August 6, 2021

Subject: Hepatitis A Outbreak linked to Nature’s Touch Frozen Mango Products

The Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) is investigating an ongoing outbreak of Hepatitis A linked to the consumption of frozen mango products. The impacted products have been recalled by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) who is leading and conducting a food safety investigation. Information about the recalled products can be found on the CFIA website. There have been reported illnesses associated with the consumption of these products, currently 3 cases in Canada (NS:1, QC:2)

Consumers have been directed by PHAC to follow up with their healthcare provider if they have been exposed to the recalled products or are eliciting any symptoms of Hepatitis A including, fever, dark urine, loss of appetite, fatigue, nausea and vomiting, stomach cramps, or jaundice. Offer PEP in clients 6 months of year of age and older who have consumed the affected product in the last 14 days as soon as possible.

Post-Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP) (if within two weeks of last exposure)
- Public Health Ontario has updated the PEP recommendations as outlined below:
- Individuals should receive hepatitis A vaccine for PEP regardless of the timing of the most recent COVID-19 vaccine
- Everyone 6 months of age and over should be offered hepatitis A vaccine as soon as possible (unless contraindicated, fully immunized in the past or already immune). Although hepatitis A vaccine is not authorized for children less than 1year of age, the National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) recommends its off-label use for children 6 months to 1 year of age for PEP
- Infants < 6 months of age require no intervention except for careful attention to hygiene when diapering. Consideration should be given to offering hepatitis A vaccine to their family members. Immune globulin was previously recommended for infants less than 1 year of age, is generally not
recommended given the level of risk in this particular type of exposure, although could be considered on a case by case basis for infants less than six months of age who are very high risk for liver complication

- **Individuals with chronic liver disease** should be offered hepatitis A vaccine and consult with their health care provider for advice regarding the need for serum immune globulin
- **Individuals with immunosuppression** should be offered hepatitis A vaccine. Although NACI recommends immune globulin also be offered, hepatitis A vaccine is felt to be sufficient given the level of risk in this particular type of exposure.
- Hepatitis A immune status should not be checked prior to vaccination
- **Previously vaccinated individuals**
  - If two previous doses were provided, no additional doses are recommended
  - If one dose was provided less than 6 months of age, no additional doses are recommended until at least 6 months from the last dose
  - If one dose was provided 6 months or more in the past, one additional dose is recommended
- Both hepatitis A and combination hepatitis A/B vaccines acceptable
- Incomplete vaccination can be continued; restarting series is not needed
- Vaccination dose given for prophylaxis will protect for 1 year; persons wanting a second dose for long term protection should see a health care provider in 6 to 12 months
- Consult Canadian Immunization Guide for schedules

The use of serum immunoglobulin (IG) is recommended in some cases, based on physician assessment
  - IG is available through Transfusion Medicine, St. Joseph’s Healthcare Hamilton; IG must be ordered by the attending physician
  - The department is open 24hrs/day 7days/week and can be reached at 905-522-1155 x33020

**Increased surveillance and reporting** - consider Hepatitis A in patients with clinically compatible symptoms and exposure and report suspect cases to Hamilton Public Health Services at **905-546-2063**

**How to order Hepatitis A vaccine from Hamilton Public Health Services**

**Routine Vaccines Ordering Process:**

Complete the ‘High Risk Order Form’ for any Hep A vaccine that is required for your patients.

All vaccine orders must be faxed to **905-546-3472** along with 4 weeks of logged (twice daily) current, minimum and maximum temperatures with your facility’s name clearly identified on the log sheets. Vaccine will not be released if log sheets are not received.

**Resource Links:**

PHAC Notice: Outbreak of Hepatitis A infections linked to frozen mangoes:

Food Recall Warning – Various frozen mangoes recalled due to Hepatitis A:

Hepatitis A disease-specific chapter of the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care’s Infectious Disease Protocol: