

NEWS

For Immediate Release

Tuesday August 27, 2019

Southwestern Public Health Confirms Case of Hepatitis A at Local Restaurant

Immunization clinics set up for restaurant goers who may have been exposed

Southwestern Public Health advises any patrons who ate at TA Travel Centre's restaurant at 535 Mill Street (401 Exit 230) in Woodstock, ON, between August 6, 2019 and August 22, 2019 that they may have been exposed to the hepatitis A virus.

"Unfortunately, an individual may have hepatitis A and not know it. That is what occurred in this situation. The food service worker handled food in the restaurant, so this communication is relevant to anyone who ordered off the menu in the restaurant or ordered take out. It does not apply to those who purchased prepared foods at the convenience store or ate from the buffet," says Elaine Reddick, Manager of Infectious Diseases at Southwestern Public Health.

Anyone within Oxford County, Elgin County or the City of St. Thomas who ate at the restaurant during this time should call Southwestern Public Health's dedicated hepatitis A line (1-800-922-0096 x 5) weekdays between 8:30 am and 4:30 pm.

A public health nurse will be available to answer your questions, assess your situation and determine if you need a vaccination.

Immunization clinics specific to the potential hepatitis A exposure have been organized by Southwestern Public Health at their 410 Buller Street Woodstock location for:

- Wednesday, August 28 from 1 pm to 7 pm
- Thursday, August 29 from 1 pm to 7 pm
- Friday August 30 from 9 am to noon

Those living outside of Oxford County, Elgin County, or the City of St. Thomas should contact their regular health care provider or their local public health unit.

Background

Hepatitis A is a liver disease caused by the hepatitis A virus. Symptoms of hepatitis A usually appear within 14 to 28 day of exposure but may take up to 50 days to appear. You may be infected and not have symptoms. If you have symptoms, they can include fever, stomach pain, dark urine, nausea and vomiting, tiredness, loss of appetite, jaundice (skin and whites of eyes turn yellow), clay or ash-coloured bowel movements.

Hepatitis A is usually spread by eating or drinking food or water contaminated with the virus. It may also be spread through close contact with an infectious person.

Social media and online content:

www.swpublichealth.ca

Facebook: Southwestern Public Health

Twitter: @SW_PublicHealth

List of Ontario's Public Health Units:

<http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/common/system/services/phu/locations.aspx>

About Southwestern Public Health:

Southwestern Public Health works with its partners to ensure the health of the whole community. Formed in 2018 by the merger of Elgin St. Thomas Public Health and Oxford County Public Health, Southwestern Public Health serves a population 200,000+ across Oxford County, Elgin County and the City of St. Thomas. Our programs respond to public health emergencies; promote healthy lifestyles; help prevent injuries, illness, and disease in the community; and promote positive change and social conditions that improve health. We deliver mandated programs under the Ontario Public Health Standards and are regulated by the Ontario Health Promotion and Protection Act. The health unit maintains its main sites in Woodstock and St. Thomas.

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