

**Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH)
Alabama Emergency Response Technology (ALERT)
Health Alert Network (HAN) 02/11/2019**

Hepatitis A in a Food Handler in Montgomery, AL: Update

Individuals who consumed food, whether dine in, pick up, or delivery from Panera Bread located at 2998 Carter Hill Road, Montgomery between January 24 and February 5 may have been exposed to hepatitis A via an infected food handler. Only individuals who are still within 14 days of their exposure date are encouraged to seek hepatitis A vaccination as soon as possible. If persons have previously received two doses, a third dose is not recommended. However, if vaccination status is unknown, please look at the state immunization registry, also known as ImmPRINT, to determine vaccination history, though a potential third dose is not harmful. Vaccination should not be delayed by testing titer first and is not recommended. Hepatitis A vaccine is safe for pregnant women.

Post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) recommendations were updated in November 2018 and specify that anyone 12 months of age or older without known contraindications is eligible to receive the hepatitis A vaccine for PEP (<https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/67/wr/mm6743a5.htm>).

Symptom onset ranges from 15 to 50 days (median of 28 days). Individuals who did not receive the hepatitis A vaccine within 14 days of exposure should be on alert for symptoms associated with hepatitis A, which may include fever, fatigue, loss of appetite, nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain, dark urine, diarrhea, clay-colored stools, joint pain, and jaundice.

Be aware that Alabama is experiencing an outbreak of hepatitis A in north Alabama, as are several states, so exposure risk may not be limited to these dates alone. Groups at higher risk of contracting hepatitis A include:

- People with direct contact with someone who has hepatitis A
- Travelers to countries where hepatitis A is common
- Men who have sexual contact with men
- People who use drugs, both injection and non-injection drugs
- Household members or caregivers of a recent adoptee from countries where hepatitis A is common
- People with clotting factor disorders, such as hemophilia
- People working with nonhuman primates

Hepatitis A Fact Sheet: <http://www.alabamapublichealth.gov/immunization/assets/hepatitisaflyer.pdf>

Hepatitis A Flyer: http://www.alabamapublichealth.gov/immunization/assets/hepatitis_a_flyer.pdf

Hepatitis A Poster: http://www.alabamapublichealth.gov/immunization/assets/hepatitis_a_poster.pdf