

3/20/2023

** NOTICE: This health alert provides written guidance for health care professionals and others who may need to take action to prevent or control a notifiable condition. It is not intended to provide guidance for the general public.*

Recall of Frozen Organic Strawberries and Organic Tropical Fruit Blend Because of Hepatitis A Risk to Consumers.

Action Requested:

- Consider administering post-exposure prophylaxis to susceptible (unvaccinated) persons who have consumed any of the recalled products in the previous 14 days. Prophylaxis should also be given to susceptible close contacts of confirmed hepatitis A cases.
- Be alert for possible cases of hepatitis A, especially in patients with a history of consuming any of the recalled products in the previous 50 days. Clinical jaundice may be a late sign or may never develop, particularly in children.
- Order hepatitis A virus (HAV) IgM antibody serology rather than HAV total antibody serology for patients with acute disease. Total HAV antibody identifies immunity due to previous infection or immunization, not for acute infection.
- Do not order HAV serology for people without symptoms or without elevated liver function tests, even if they ate the recalled products. False positive HAV IgM test results are common when asymptomatic people are tested.
- Advise patients with suspected or confirmed HAV infection not to work or attend sensitive settings such as food service, health care, or childcare. Persons with hepatitis A or diarrhea should not be allowed to work in or attend these settings for at least one week after jaundice onset or two weeks after symptom onset (if no jaundice), whichever is later. There is a risk of spreading the infection to others via the fecal-oral route.
- Promptly report all suspect and confirmed cases to Thurston County Public Health and Social Services within 24 hours. To report during business hours Monday – Friday 8am-5pm call the Communicable Disease Reporting Line at 360-786-5470 or fax case information to 360-867-2601. If you would like to speak to a member of the Communicable Disease Team, call 360-867-2610. For weekend reporting call the afterhours line at 1-800-986-9050.

3/20/2023

Background:

On March 16, 2023, Scenic Fruit Company recalled frozen Organic Strawberries and Frozen Organic Tropical Fruit Blend (containing strawberries) because an investigation linked the recalled frozen organic strawberries to at least five hepatitis A infections in Washington residents. The recalled products were sold in Washington at Costco, PCC Community Markets and Trader Joe's stores and online at Vital Choice Seafood & Organics. Consumers are advised to discard these products or return them to stores where they were purchased.

The incubation period for hepatitis A infection after exposure ranges from 14 to 50 days (the average is 28 days). Persons who consumed this product in the prior 14 days may benefit from postexposure prophylaxis. If someone ate the recalled strawberries more than 50 days ago and did not develop hepatitis A infection, they are no longer at risk from that exposure.

Full details on the recalled products can be found on the FDA Recalls, Market Withdrawals, & Safety Alerts webpage: <https://www.fda.gov/safety/recalls-market-withdrawals-safety-alerts/scenic-fruit-company-recalls-frozen-organic-strawberries-and-frozen-organic-tropical-fruit-blend>

Resources:

Postexposure prophylaxis and vaccination information:

- [Prevention of Hepatitis A Virus Infection in the United States: Recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices, 2020: Postexposure prophylaxis](#)
- [TABLE 4. Recommendations for postexposure prophylaxis and preexposure protection, by age group and risk category — Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices, 2020](#)
- [TABLE 2. Dosage recommendations for GamaSTAN human immune globulin for preexposure and postexposure prophylaxis against hepatitis A infection](#)

Hepatitis A Information:

Hepatitis A| Centers for Disease Control and Prevention:

<https://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/hav/index.htm>

Hepatitis A| Washington State Department of Health: <https://doh.wa.gov/public-health-healthcare-providers/notifiable-conditions/hepatitis>

Hepatitis A Notifiable Condition Guideline| Washington State Department of Health: <https://doh.wa.gov/sites/default/files/2022-02/420-039-Guideline-HepatitisA.pdf>

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE UPDATE

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION SECTION
THURSTON COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT
412 LILLY RD NE
OLYMPIA, WA, 98506-5132
DISEASE REPORTING: (360)786-5470



3/20/2023

THANK YOU FOR REPORTING

| TO REPORT A NOTIFIABLE CONDITION IN THURSTON COUNTY | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| Voice mail for reporting non-immediately reportable conditions (24 hours a day) | Phone: 360-786-5470 Fax: 360-867-2601 |
| Day time immediately reportable conditions – Call detailed information to the 24-hour Notifiable Condition Reporting Line at 360-786-5470. Messages are picked up hourly. If a call back can't wait call 360-867-2500 and ask staff to locate a Communicable Disease staff. | Phone: 360-786-5470 |
| After hours immediately and 24-hour reportable conditions or a public health emergency | Call 1-800-986-9050 |
| No one is available with Thurston County Public Health and condition is immediately notifiable | 1-877-539-4344 |

Communicable Disease Updates are posted online at:
<https://www.thurstoncountywa.gov/departments/public-health-and-social-services/disease-control-and-prevention/communicable-diseases/communicable-disease-updates>