



**DALLAS COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
EPIDEMIOLOGY**

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To: **Dallas County Medical Providers**

Date: **February 7, 2012**

HEALTH ADVISORY:

Possible Hepatitis A Exposures from a Food Worker

Dallas County Health and Human Services (DCHHS) is investigating a confirmed case of hepatitis A virus (HAV) infection in an individual who worked at Gonzales Restaurant at 8121 Bruton Road in Dallas. The risks of infection are associated with exposure to this employee, and not specifically to the restaurant facility. DCHHS is contacting persons who ate at the restaurant between January 25th through January 28th, who have been potentially exposed to hepatitis A. Such persons are being advised to receive post-exposure prophylaxis with a dose of hepatitis A vaccine or immune globulin (IG) as soon as possible through their health care provider or the health department.

Post-exposure vaccination or immune globulin (0.02 mL/kg IM) are effective in preventing HAV infection when given within 14 days of exposure. For healthy persons aged 12 months to 40 years, single-antigen hepatitis A vaccine at the age-appropriate dose is preferred to IG because of the advantage of long-term protection and equal efficacy to IG. For persons over 40 years of age, IG is preferred due to lack of information regarding vaccine performance in this age group; however, vaccine can be used if IG cannot be obtained. IG should be used for children ≤ 12 months of age, immune-compromised persons, persons with chronic liver disease, and persons who are allergic to the vaccine.

Persons who ate at this facility between January 19th through 24th also may have been exposed to HAV, but would not benefit from HAV vaccine or IG, which should be given within 14 days of exposure. Such persons should watch for signs of HAV infection and contact their health-care provider if they develop illness. Illness with hepatitis A usually begins 2 to 6 weeks after exposure, and can last for 2 weeks or longer. Symptoms often include fever, nausea, vomiting, malaise, abdominal pain, and jaundice. Serologic testing for HAV is not recommended in asymptomatic persons.

Local medical providers who identify possible associated cases are requested to report them to DCHHS. For questions or to report a suspected case, please contact Dallas County Health and Human Services at (214) 819-2004. Thank you.

Categories of Health Alert messages:

- **Health Advisory:** Provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action.