



Dearborn Co. Health Department

Prevent. Promote. Protect.

165 Mary Street
Lawrenceburg IN, 47025
www.dearborncounty.org

February 12, 2019
Hotline (812) 532-3278

Hepatitis A Exposure at Greendale Restaurant

Greendale, IN – A case of Hepatitis A has been diagnosed in an employee who handled food at Taco Bell located at 575 Eads Parkway, Greendale, Indiana. An investigation found that this employee worked while ill on 1/24/19, 1/31/19, and 2/1/19, prior to diagnosis.

While it is relatively rare for restaurant patrons to become infected with hepatitis A virus due to an infected food-handler, anyone who consumed food or drink at Taco Bell on **1/31/19 or 2/1/19** is recommended to receive vaccination by 2/15/19 as further protection from becoming ill. Taco Bell is working with Health Officials to prevent any new cases from arising in the community as a result of this case.

Vaccinations are being administered for those with potential exposure to hepatitis A during the specified dates at:

DEARBORN COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
Basement Level Health Clinic
165 Mary St., Lawrenceburg, IN
Hep A Hotline (812) 532-3278

- **4 p.m. to 7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 14th**
- **10 a.m. to Noon and 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. Friday, Feb. 15th**

For those who ate at the restaurant on 1/24/19, vaccination will no longer prevent illness from this exposure, but they should watch for any signs or symptoms of hepatitis A and contact their health care provider immediately if any symptoms are present. Hepatitis A is a viral infection of the liver that can cause loss of appetite, nausea, tiredness, fever, stomach pain, brown colored urine, and light colored stools. Yellowing of the skin or eyes may also appear. People can become ill up to seven weeks after being exposed to the virus.

Hepatitis A usually spreads when a person unknowingly ingests the virus from objects, food, or drinks contaminated by small, undetected amounts of stool from an infected person. The virus spreads when an infected person does not wash his/her hands adequately after using the toilet or engages in behaviors that increase risk of infection. Also, could be transmitted person-to-person through fecal-oral routes or by consuming contaminated food or water. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)



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identifies those most at risk during this outbreak as people who use illicit drugs, the homeless, men who have sex with men and those who are incarcerated. Indiana health officials have been working to educate the public, restaurants, jails, and groups that serve homeless populations and those who use illicit drugs about the outbreak and ways to prevent the disease. ISDH also provides outbreak updates on its website at hepAfact.isdh.in.gov

Anyone who is exhibiting symptoms of hepatitis A should contact a healthcare provider immediately and refrain from preparing food for others. Individuals can become ill 15 to 50 days after being exposed to the virus. A doctor can determine if someone has hepatitis A with a blood test.

Indiana law has required a hepatitis A vaccine for school admission since 2014, and the vaccine was required for students entering sixth and 12th grades in 2018, so many students have already been vaccinated. Please check with your health provider if you do not have your personal record of vaccination.

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