

For Health Professionals

Health Alerts

Health Alert #144 - Possible Hepatitis A Exposure - September 28, 2005

Persons who attended the Global Gaming Expo at the Las Vegas Convention Center held September 13th-15th, 2005 may have been exposed to hepatitis A through an infected individual who worked at the conference on September 13th and 14th.

The individual was working at a Schwann's Food Service booth and was handing out samples of ice cream. The individual serving the product is considered the source of possible exposure and not the ice cream product. It is also important to note the infected individual did not show symptoms of the illness until after the conference nor did he know he was infected. The individual was exposed to hepatitis A at an event unrelated to the Gaming Expo, but would have been infectious at the time he was there.

The Erie County Health Department will hold a clinic today (Wednesday, September 28th) from 3:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. at 3359 Broadway, Cheektowaga. The purpose of the clinic is to provide preventive treatment to local individuals who attended the conference and were served ice cream from this booth on September 13th or 14th. Although there is no treatment for hepatitis A, symptoms can be prevented in exposed persons who receive gamma globulin within 14 days of their exposure.

Symptoms of hepatitis A include fever, loss of appetite, nausea, vomiting, and malaise. These symptoms usually appear by day 28 but may appear between days 15 and 50. Therefore, through November 14th any patients presenting with signs and symptoms indicative of hepatitis A should be questioned about attendance at this event. Please notify the Erie County Department of Health at (716) 858-7697 if you identify any patients who may be associated with this event or if you have any questions regarding this notification. Please contact (716) 440-1407 between 4:30 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. today (September 28th) only with immediate questions.

Additional information regarding hepatitis A is included below and is available at:

<http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/diseases/hepatitis/a/index.htm>