Dear Anteaters:

We learned Thursday that frozen strawberries served in Mesa Court’s Anteatery were recalled due to potential Hepatitis A contamination. Some of the strawberries were offered as an optional topping at the ice cream station on Sunday, Oct. 16, 2016, with the remainder discarded as soon as we were notified of the recall. The contaminated berries were not served at any other time or location.

While there have been no reports of Hepatitis A in Orange County due to consumption of the recalled strawberries and the risk of infection is low, we wanted to notify you as soon as possible.

Hepatitis A is a contagious virus that can cause inflammation of the liver. Signs and symptoms of infection may include jaundice (yellow eyes or skin), abdominal pain, dark urine, pale (light-colored) stool, extreme tiredness, loss of appetite, fever, nausea or vomiting. If you have any of these symptoms, contact a healthcare provider immediately.

We also urge you to contact a healthcare provider if you believe you ate the recalled strawberries or were directly exposed (such as through bodily fluids) to someone who ate them — even if you are not experiencing symptoms. Illness usually occurs between 15 to 50 days after exposure. Those who have an existing liver disease are at greater risk and should consult their healthcare professional.

A vaccine for Hepatitis A is available. It is routinely given to California children, so many of you may be immune to the virus. However, those who are not immune should be treated within two weeks of exposure.

If you believe you have been exposed to this virus and your healthcare provider is not available, please contact Student Health Services at 877-351-3457 (graduate students) or 800-977-0027 (undergraduate students) as soon as possible. You can reach us at any time by following the after-hours advice line prompts. You may also contact Orange County Public Health Epidemiology at 714-834-8180 for assistance and information.


Your health and well-being is our utmost concern. If you have any concerns, comments or questions, please feel free to contact us at the Student Health numbers above.

**Thomas A. Parham, Ph.D.**
Vice Chancellor
Student Affairs
TO: Orange County Health Care Providers
RE: Recall of Frozen Strawberries Potentially Contaminated with Hepatitis A Distributed Nationally, Including in Orange County

A large recall of frozen strawberries from Egypt has been issued due to the potential for hepatitis A contamination. This voluntary recall was issued as part of an ongoing Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) investigation of a multi-state hepatitis A outbreak linked to frozen strawberries mainly on the East Coast. The recalled frozen strawberries were packaged under multiple brands and distributed for sale throughout the United States, including in California, for use in food service establishments. These were not offered for retail sale to consumers but may have been served in many locations throughout Orange County (see Orange County Health Care Agency Environmental Health website for Orange County list or California Department of Public Health (CDPH) website for California list).

To date, there have not been hepatitis A cases in Orange County associated with this outbreak or this recall. However, Orange County health care providers should be aware of this potential exposure in evaluating patients with signs and/or symptoms of hepatitis A and/or in managing patients who may have consumed the potentially contaminated frozen strawberries from Egypt.

Recommendations:
- Consider hepatitis A virus (HAV) infection in persons with signs and/or symptoms of hepatitis, which include jaundice, dark urine, fever, malaise, anorexia, nausea, diarrhea, and abdominal discomfort, and increased transaminases (AST/ALT). Many cases, especially children have mild or asymptomatic infection. The incubation period for HAV infection ranges from 15–50 days.
- Send serum for HAV IgM in all suspect hepatitis A patients. Testing persons who consumed the recalled strawberries but have NO signs or symptoms of hepatitis is NOT recommended. Total HAV Ab is NOT helpful in the diagnosis of acute hepatitis A.
- Report any suspect or confirmed hepatitis A patients promptly to Orange County Public Health Epidemiology by phone 714-834-8180 or by fax 714-834-8196.
- Advise any suspect or confirmed hepatitis A patients to refrain from food preparation for others and stay home from work if in a sensitive occupation (food service, health care, or child care) for at least one week after jaundice onset or symptom onset (if no jaundice), whichever is later. Public Health will advise persons in sensitive occupations when they can return to work.
- Administer post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) to susceptible (non-immune)* close personal contacts, including household and sexual contacts, of persons with hepatitis A as soon as possible within two weeks of the last exposure to the case. See the next page for more information about PEP.
- Consider PEP in susceptible* persons who have eaten the recalled strawberries in the past 14 days. See the next page for more information about PEP.

* Immunity against hepatitis A includes history of previous hepatitis A infection, hepatitis A vaccination (at least one dose of single-antigen HAV vaccine), or testing IgG anti-HAV positive.

For general information about hepatitis A, see our recent advisory, the HCA website (www.ochealthinfo.com), or call Orange County Public Health Epidemiology at 714-834-8180.
Post Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP) Recommendations for Hepatitis A
from California Department of Public Health Healthcare Provider Advisory 11-2-16

Post-exposure prophylaxis with single-antigen hepatitis A virus (HAV) vaccine or intramuscular (IM) immune globulin (IG) (0.02 ml/kg), or both, is recommended for susceptible people exposed to HAV within the last two weeks. The following PEP regimens are recommended by the California Department of Public Health (CDPH):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age/years</th>
<th>&lt;1*</th>
<th>1-40</th>
<th>41-59</th>
<th>60-74*</th>
<th>75+*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Healthy</td>
<td>IMIG</td>
<td>Vaccine preferred</td>
<td>Vaccine and/or IG</td>
<td>IMIG; vaccine if IMIG is in short supply or unavailable</td>
<td>IMIG; vaccine if IMIG is unavailable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other†</td>
<td>IMIG</td>
<td>IMIG</td>
<td>IMIG</td>
<td>IMIG</td>
<td>IMIG</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Consider vaccine + IMIG for possible longer-term protection</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*If IMIG is in short supply or unavailable, single-antigen HAV vaccine may be used for PEP in healthy people 60-74 years of age and in infants >6 months of age. If IMIG is unavailable, single-antigen HAV vaccine may be used for PEP in healthy people 75 years of age and older.

†People who should receive IG for PEP regardless of age
CDC recommends that the following people, regardless of age, receive IMIG PEP because they are at increased risk of severe hepatitis A infection or may have a decreased immune response to vaccine. Vaccine may be given in addition to IMIG to potentially provide longer-term protection, but vaccine response may be limited. Clinical guidance should be obtained if patient’s immune status is unclear.

- Persons with chronic liver disease (e.g., cirrhosis)
- Immunocompromised persons, including persons:
  - With HIV/AIDS;
  - Undergoing hemodialysis;
  - Who have received solid organ, bone marrow or stem cell transplants;
  - Receiving high dose steroids (>2mg/kg/day);
  - Receiving chemotherapy, immune modulating and/or biologic medications,‡ and
  - Persons who are otherwise less capable of developing a normal response to immunization.

‡mercaptopurine, methotrexate, infliximab, adalimumab, etanercept, tacrolimus, mycophenolate, etc.

There is only one manufacturer of IMIG in the United States. GamaSTAN® is available in 2 mL and 10 mL single use vials. One source of IMIG is FFF Enterprises, which can be reached 24/7 at: 1-800-843-7477.

For more information, see:
Screening Tool to Evaluate Patients for Hepatitis A PEP Who Report Consuming Recalled Frozen Strawberries from Egypt

(Adapted from California Department of Public Health and Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment guidance)

**Exposure:**
Did you eat strawberries at a restaurant or other facility on the list of facilities with recalled strawberries?

☐ Yes  ☐ No  ☐ Not sure

If yes, did you eat any of them in the last 14 days? ☐ Yes  ☐ No  ☐ Not sure

_If person consumed recalled strawberries but not within the past 14 days, s/he will not be eligible for PEP. Counsel person on symptoms of hepatitis A and ask them to contact you if they develop symptoms. Discontinue screening and do NOT administer PEP._

**Immunity:**
Have you ever been diagnosed with hepatitis A?  ☐ Yes  ☐ No  ☐ Not sure

Have you ever received the hepatitis A vaccine?  ☐ Yes  ☐ No  ☐ Not sure

If yes: When? _______________ How many doses?  ☐ 1  ☐ 2  ☐ Not sure

Have you received an immune globulin (IG or gamma globulin) shot in the last 3 months?

☐ Yes  ☐ No  ☐ Not sure  If yes: When? _______________

_If person said “yes” to any of the above immunity questions, s/he will NOT need PEP. A previous history of hepatitis A infection or A vaccination (at least one dose of hepatitis A vaccine, at least one month before exposure, is considered protection against hepatitis A). Discontinue screening and do NOT administer PEP._

**Recent illness:**
During the past two months have you had:

- Dark urine (like tea or a cola drink) ☐ Yes  ☐ No  ☐ Not sure
- Yellow skin or eyes ☐ Yes  ☐ No  ☐ Not sure

_If person said “yes” to these symptoms questions, s/he should be evaluated for hepatitis A infection before PEP is administered to determine if s/he possibly has hepatitis A. See “Recommendations” on first page of this advisory._

**PEP eligibility:** A person is eligible for PEP (vaccine or IMIG as appropriate) if all of the following criteria are met:

1. The person ate strawberries at a restaurant or other facility that served recalled strawberries.
2. The person ate the recalled strawberries within the last 14 days.
3. The person does not have a previous history of hepatitis A infection or hepatitis A vaccination. At least one dose of hepatitis A vaccine, at least one month before exposure, is considered protection against hepatitis A.
4. The person has not had jaundice (yellow skin or eyes) or dark urine (like tea or cola) within the last two months.

**Eligible for PEP:**  ☐ Yes  ☐ No