

ALERT: Hepatitis A – Nature's Touch Organic Berry Cherry Blend, Costco

April 19, 2016

Peterborough County-City
HEALTH UNIT
...because health matters!

ATTENTION: HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS

Peterborough County-City Health Unit is collaborating in an investigation of an outbreak of hepatitis A infections in 3 provinces linked to the frozen fruit product: Nature's Touch Organic Berry Cherry Blend, sold exclusively at Costco. The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) has issued a food recall warning advising Canadians of the recall of the frozen fruit product and Costco has advised members who purchased the product NOT to consume it and to return it for a refund.

Vaccination can prevent the onset of symptoms if given within 2 weeks of exposure. The overall risk is low, however, to date, there have been 10 people in Ontario who have contracted hepatitis A. So far, the onset of symptoms has been in February and March of 2016.

Costco Peterborough has notified their members who have purchased the product. They are offering vaccine to adults and children over six years of age who have consumed the product within 14 days AND are not pregnant, immunocompromised or have liver disease. Those who are not eligible for the vaccine administration at Costco can get a prescription filled free of charge for the vaccine to be administered by their health care provider. There is limited vaccine on site and they are only administering vaccine by appointment. They are administering the vaccine to members and non-members of Costco.

The Ministry of Health and Long Term Care is making Hepatitis A vaccine available, free of charge, to patients who have been exposed but who prefer to receive their vaccine from their health care provider or from Peterborough County-City Health Unit at 185 King Street.

Havrix™ is an inactivated vaccine, indicated for the prevention of hepatitis A in persons 1 year of age and older. Pregnancy is not a contraindication. For more details, please see the product monograph. Peterborough residents can call Peterborough County-City Health Unit at 705-743-1000 ext. 331 for appointment for immunization, if eligible.

Those previously immunized with 2 doses of vaccine do not require any further vaccine. Those who have received 1 dose within the past 6 months do not require any additional doses until at least 6 months has elapsed. Those with 1 dose more than 6 months ago should be immunized. For more information on post-exposure prophylaxis, please go to our website at www.pcchu.ca, and click on For Professionals, then [Alerts](#).

Infants aged 6 months to 1 year can be immunized¹, but this is an off label use of the vaccine.

Infants attending daycare, or immunosuppressed patients should be offered immune globulin +/- vaccine as they may not mount a response to immunization. However, given the level of risk in this particular exposure, hepatitis A vaccine is considered to be sufficient.

Please report any patients who develop Hepatitis A to us as soon as possible and our staff will complete the necessary investigations.

¹ Canadian Immunization Guide, Hepatitis A vaccine, 2015

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Medical Officer of Health

Our name is changing!

Starting June 1, 2016 public health programs and services will be delivered under a new name and visual identity for **Peterborough Public Health**. Stay tuned for more details.