

MEDICAL HEALTH OFFICERS **ALERT** FOR PHYSICIANS

September 1, 2017

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Hepatitis A

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Medical Health Officers:

Dr. Trevor Corneil

Dr. Kamran Golmohammadi

Dr. Silvina Mema

Dr. Sue Pollock

CONTACT INFO:

**Duty MHO line (24/7)
1-866-457-5648**

HEPATITIS A ALERT FOR RESIDENTS OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Dear Physician,

Hepatitis A virus has been detected in Western Family brand fresh pineapple chunks sold in ready-to-go cups. The cups were produced on August 11, 2017 and distributed to 38 Save-On Food/Overwaitea Foods/Pricesmart locations across BC, including locations in Kamloops, Kelowna, Vernon, Merritt, Revelstoke, Penticton, Sparwood and Golden. The fruit cups were sold beginning August 11th and had a best before date of August 19th.

The investigation is ongoing, there may be other potentially contaminated food products and additional locations of sale affected. No cases of hepatitis A have yet been reported in British Columbia from this exposure.

BCCDC has issued a press release listing the stores and displaying photos of the affected product on their [website](#).

If your patient has consumed this pineapple:

In the previous 14 days: they should receive a single dose of hepatitis A vaccine now, unless they have received two doses of hepatitis A vaccine in the past. If they have received only one dose of hepatitis A vaccine more than 6 months ago, provide a second dose of hepatitis A vaccine now.

Between 14 and 50 days ago: they should watch for signs and symptoms of hepatitis A and seek medical care if they become ill. Vaccine is no longer effective at preventing hepatitis A in these individuals.

More than 50 days ago: they are no longer at risk of developing hepatitis A from this exposure.

Patients who still have this product should discard it immediately.

Hepatitis A vaccine can be provided free for patients who ate the pineapple in the last 14 days. If you are unable to immunize your patients, information regarding how they can receive the vaccine can be found [here](#) on the Interior Health website.

If you have any further questions, please call the IH Communicable Disease Unit at 1-866-778-7736 or the MHO on call at 1-866-457-5648.