



Interior Health
Every person matters

Update: Hepatitis A in Western Family brand pineapple chunks
— SEPT. 14, 2017 —

The BC Centre for Disease Control (BCCDC) issued a [news release](#) warning consumers that Hepatitis A virus has been detected in a sample of Western Family brand fresh pineapple chunks sold in ready-to-go cups across the province, including Interior Health communities.

Additional products have been identified as possibly being contaminated:

- Fresh pineapple chunks 227g and 425g
- Fresh peeled & cored pineapple 16oz
- Fresh fruit salad 198g, 227g and 425g
- Fresh citrus salad 226g

The products were Western Family brand, or unbranded, and all had a best before date of August 19, 2017. Information is also available under Product Alerts on the Save-On-Foods website:

<https://www.saveonfoods.com/product-alerts/>

If you have consumed the pineapple chunks or other listed products between 14 and 50 days ago: Watch for signs and symptoms of Hepatitis A. Please seek medical care if you become ill and ask your doctor to test you for Hepatitis A. Vaccine is no longer effective at preventing Hepatitis A in these individuals.

About Hepatitis A:

Hepatitis A is a disease that affects the liver and is caused by the Hepatitis A virus. Illness can be mild (lasting a few weeks) to severe (lasting several months). Hepatitis A virus is found in the stool of an infected person. Hepatitis A is usually spread when a person eats food or drinks water that is contaminated, even in very small amounts.

Symptoms of Hepatitis A are:

- Feeling very tired (fatigue)
- Fever
- Feeling sick to your stomach (nausea)
- Not feeling hungry (loss of appetite)
- Yellow skin (jaundice)
- Dark coloured urine
- Clay coloured stool
- Pain on the right side of the belly, under the rib cage (where your liver is)

Anyone who develops symptoms should stay home from school, work, daycare or other activities and avoid making food for others.

Hepatitis A vaccine can prevent Hepatitis A virus infection, but only when given within 14 days of exposure.

Person who have had Hepatitis A in the past, or who have already received two doses of the vaccine are protected from the disease and will not need to be vaccinated again.

There is no specific treatment for Hepatitis A. Most people get well within a few months. If you have hepatitis, it is recommended that you rest, eat a well-balanced diet, drink plenty of water, and avoid illegal drugs and alcohol.

For more information visit:

- [BCCDC information webpage on Hepatitis A](#)
- [Overview on Hepatitis A from HealthLinkBC](#)