



*"To improve the health of our communities by identifying sustainable solutions to community health issues, developing partnerships for implementation of strategies, and demonstrating our success through measurement of outcomes."*

## HEALTH ALERT NETWORK HEALTH DISTRICT 4

### HEPATITIS A AND NOROVIRUS ADVISORY FOR HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS

Central District Health Department Urges Health Care Providers to Watch for Hepatitis A and Norovirus

February 9, 2012

#### **Hepatitis A in a Food Worker**

On February 7<sup>th</sup>, Central District Health Department (CDHD) identified one case of Hepatitis A in an employee at the Cheesecake Factory. CDHD asks providers to watch for Hepatitis A cases through March 13<sup>th</sup>. The patient was infectious from December 13<sup>th</sup> to January 24<sup>th</sup>. Exposed individuals will not benefit from a vaccine or immunoglobulin because prophylaxis must be given within 14 days of exposure.

Hepatitis A virus is typically spread person-to-person through fecal-oral transmission. Older children and adults usually develop jaundice but young children are often asymptomatic. The average incubation period for Hepatitis A is 28 days with a range of 15-50 days and most cases are self-limited. For suspect cases with acute illness, Hepatitis A IgM, liver enzymes, and Hepatitis B and C serologies are recommended.

Be alert for potential cases of Hepatitis A in patients with the following signs:

- Fever
- Loss of appetite
- Abdominal discomfort
- Jaundice (yellowing of the skin & eyes)
- Fatigue
- Nausea
- Dark urine

Please consider Hepatitis A if a patient presents with a sudden onset of symptoms, if they ate at the Cheesecake Factory between December 13<sup>th</sup> and January 22<sup>nd</sup> or had close contact with a confirmed case. Routine vaccination for Hepatitis A is always recommended for anyone who wants to prevent infection.

Please contact Communicable Disease Control at 327-8625 to report suspect and confirmed cases of Hepatitis A.

## **Norovirus in Two Assisted Living Facilities**

On January 31<sup>st</sup>, CDHD received reports of two suspect norovirus outbreaks at separate assisted living facilities. On February 8<sup>th</sup>, CDHD confirmed one of the outbreaks. The outbreaks appear unrelated but both started around January 28<sup>th</sup>.

Norovirus is a highly contagious, self-limited viral disease often spread by close contact with an ill person. While it normally is a fecal-oral transmission, CDC considers aerosol transmission possible from vomitus.

Norovirus symptoms occur suddenly and may include:

- Vomiting/Nausea
- Diarrhea
- Low-grade fever

For additional information contact the Office of Communicable Disease at 327-8625.