



**Office of the
Chief Medical
Health Officer**

**UPDATED NOTICE
Hepatitis A Exposure from Contaminated Pineapple Products**

Dear Physician:

An investigation into hepatitis A virus in fresh pineapple chunks has identified several products that may have been contaminated and pose a risk to consumers. The media was notified on Friday, September 1, 2017 regarding one product (Western Family pineapple chunks in ready-to-go cups). More products have since been identified as potentially contaminated with Hepatitis A. The products implicated were sold at Overwaitea, Save-on-Foods and PriceSmart stores **throughout** BC, as well as Ferraro Foods in Trail, BC.

Identified products:

The products were Western Family brand, or unbranded, and all had a best before date of August 19, 2017.

Pineapple chunks 198 g, 227g and 425g
Peeled & cored pineapple 16oz
Fruit salad 198g, 227g and 425g
Citrus salad 226g

Information is also available under Product Alerts on the Save-On-Foods website:

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

Investigation is ongoing, and 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 Columbians from this exposure. If additional products are identified, BCCDC will update their information. <http://www.bccdc.ca/about/news-stories/news-releases>

Actions:

If your patients consumed any of these pineapple-containing products:

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.

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.

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After Hours On Call

1.800.204.6166

Patients who have frozen this product should discard it.

Hepatitis A vaccine can be provided free for patients who ate the product in the last 14 days. If you do not have vaccine in your office, **your patients can receive the vaccine from any Save-On-Foods pharmacy** or local public health unit. Hepatitis A vaccine is safe in pregnancy and can be provided to children (pediatric dose) six months of age and older.

If you have any questions, please contact your Medical Health Officer.