



**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.

**NORTH ISLAND**

**250.331.8591**

Charmaine Enns MD MSc FRCPC  
355-11th Street  
Courtenay, BC V9N 1S4

**CENTRAL ISLAND**

**250.739.6304**

Paul Hasselback MD MSc FRCPC  
3rd Floor, 6475 Metral Drive  
Nanaimo, BC V9T 2L9

**SOUTH ISLAND**

**250.519.3406**

Richard Stanwick, CMHO  
MD MSc FRCPC FAAP

Murray Fyfe MD MSc FRCPC

Dee Hoyano MD FRCPC CCFP

430-1900 Richmond Avenue  
Victoria, BC V8R 4R2

**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.