



JAN. 23, 2007

HEALTH ADVISORY

North Dakota Ice Skaters Possibly Exposed To Hepatitis A

The North Dakota Department of Health today was informed by Kane County (Illinois) and the Illinois Departments of Public Health of potential hepatitis A exposures to ice skaters from North Dakota who competed in the Midwestern Synchronized Team Skating Championships from January 17 to January 20, 2007, in Geneva, Illinois.

Skaters or anyone else who dined at the Houlihan's restaurant (1332 Commons Drive, Geneva, IL) between Monday, January 8 and Friday, January 19 may have been exposed to Hepatitis A. Health officials in Illinois are working to identify and contact those who may have been exposed.

People who ate at this restaurant during this time period will be referred to their health-care provider for immuno-globulin (Ig). To be effective Ig must be given within 14 days of exposure. People who did NOT eat at this restaurant during this time frame are NOT at risk for infection.

People who have been vaccinated against hepatitis A (two doses of Hepatitis A vaccine at least six months apart) should be considered immune and do not need Ig. People who have previously had the disease are also immune. Providers should not withhold Ig pending serologic tests for immunity.

Hepatitis A Immuno-globulin G can be ordered at:

- Alternative Site Distributors 1.800.837.5403
- Biocare Division, Blood systems Inc. 1.800.304.3064
- Health Coalition 1.800.456.7283
- Chapin Medical 1.800.221.7180
- FFF Enterprises 1.800.843.7477
- Nationwide 1.800.997.8846
- NHS 1.800.344.6087

Further information is posted on the North Dakota Department of Health website at www.ndhealth.gov/disease or by calling 1.800.472.2180.

Categories of Health Alert messages:

- *Health Alert conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention.*
- *Health Advisory provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action.*
- *Health Update provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; no immediate action necessary.*
- *Health Information provides general information that is not necessarily considered to be of an emergent nature.*

This message is being sent to local public health units, clinics, hospitals, physicians, tribal health, North Dakota Nurses Association, North Dakota Long Term Care Association, North Dakota Healthcare Association, North Dakota Medical Association, North Dakota EMS Association and hospital public information officers.