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RE: Frozen Strawberry Recall

Due to a multi-state outbreak of hepatitis A cases, national recall of a frozen strawberry product is underway. Genesee County Health Department was informed of the potential for exposure to this product through a distributor that potentially affects many types of restaurants and institutional kitchens. Genesee County Health Department staff, along with health department staff around the state, have been contacting affected sites in each county to determine potential exposure of individuals in those communities.

Genesee County Health Department staff has contacted all of the facilities in Genesee County that may have received frozen strawberries that were included in the national recall. None of the facilities reported serving the strawberries within the past 14 days. Four of Genesee County facilities did not know if they had served the strawberries in the past two weeks. The Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development has posted on their website the list of facilities, statewide, that may have served the recalled frozen strawberries within the past 14 days for those individuals who want to see if they have visited one of those establishments in their county or another county during that time period. www.michigan.gov/heparecall

Hepatitis A is a contagious liver disease that results from exposure to the hepatitis A virus, including from food. It can range from a mild illness lasting a few weeks to a serious illness lasting several months. Illness generally occurs within 15 to 50 days of exposure and includes fatigue, abdominal pain, yellow skin (jaundice), abnormal liver tests, dark urine and pale stool.

In rare cases, particularly consumers who have a pre-existing severe illness or a compromised immune system, hepatitis A infection can progress to liver failure. Contact your primary care provider or the Genesee County Health Department if you are experiencing symptoms of hepatitis A. For more information on hepatitis A, visit the Genesee County Health Department's webpage, <http://geneseehealth.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/hepatitis-A.pdf>

Because hepatitis A can cause serious illness, the CDC recommends that individuals who have eaten recalled strawberries in the last two weeks receive post exposure prophylaxis for hepatitis A. Exposed individuals who have previously received their hepatitis A vaccination do not need to be revaccinated. Contact your health care provider if you believe you have eaten the recalled strawberries in the last two weeks and would like to receive post exposure prophylaxis.

Genesee County Health Department Your Health. Our Work.