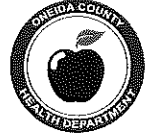




ONEIDA COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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"PROMOTING & PROTECTING THE HEALTH OF ONEIDA COUNTY"

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News Release

March 17, 2020
For Immediate Release

Contact: Megan Graziano
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Oneida County Health Department Provides Education on Hepatitis A after Food Service Workers Test Positive

Recently, there have been two incidents of food service facilities regulated by the Oneida County Health Department that reported having a food worker infected with Hepatitis A. Neither food worker knew that they were infected with Hepatitis A before they had symptoms. Both food service facilities were fully cooperative and provided important information to the health department during illness investigation interviews.

"We make a public announcement alerting people to a potential source of Hepatitis A exposure upon learning that a food service facility has a worker infected with Hepatitis A. This does not mean that the food service facility has done anything wrong" says Phyllis D. Ellis, BSN, MS, FACHE. "Most of the time, people infected with Hepatitis A do not know that they are sick for up to a month after becoming infected with Hepatitis A."

Both food service facilities remained open because they complied with all health department regulations. In addition, these facilities conducted thorough cleanings of their facilities. Co-workers that were potentially exposed to their infected colleague were interviewed and provided with medical treatment if needed. Food workers that were determined to be Hepatitis A contagious were excluded from work.

Any food service facility could end up having a worker infected with Hepatitis A. This does not make a food service facility a bad place to eat. In fact, the food service facility would be closed by the health department if there was any health risk to the public.

For more information about Hepatitis A, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/hav/>. If you believe you may have been exposed to Hepatitis A or have Hepatitis A, you may contact your healthcare provider or the Oneida County Health Department at 315-798-5747.

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