



ONEIDA COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

ANTHONY J. PICENTE, JR.
ONEIDA COUNTY EXECUTIVE

PHYLLIS D. ELLIS, BSN, MS, FACHE
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH



"PROMOTING & PROTECTING THE HEALTH OF ONEIDA COUNTY"

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News Release

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For Immediate Release

Contact: Megan Graziano
315-798-5229

Hepatitis A Confirmed in Employee at Rome Eatery

The Oneida County Health Department (OCHD) has learned that an employee of Taco Bell on Erie Boulevard West in Rome, has tested positive for Hepatitis A. This employee worked while infectious and may have exposed people who were patrons of the shop.

The Hepatitis A vaccine is effective if given within two weeks of exposure. The OCHD is alerting those who had consumed food prepared by the restaurant on the following dates and times to receive preventive treatment within 14 days of exposure.

- June 24 – 6 p.m. to 2 a.m. – need vaccination by July 8
- June 25 - 6 p.m. to 2 a.m. – need vaccination by July 9
- June 29 – 6 p.m. to 10:40 p.m. – need vaccination by July 13
- July 2 – 6 p.m. to 2:40 a.m. – need vaccination by July 16
- July 3 – 6 p.m. to 3:45 a.m. – need vaccination by July 17

If you need a Hepatitis A vaccination, you can contact your primary health care provider or contact the OCHD. Vaccinations will be given at OCHD Rome Clinic office on 300 West Dominick St. in Rome by appointment only. To make an appointment with OCHD, please call 315-798-5747, press 1 to schedule an appointment. Please leave a message with your name, date of birth, phone number and date of exposure. Due to the volume of calls expected, please leave only one message and your call will be returned.

If you consumed food from Taco Bell between June 11, 2020 and June 22, 2020, please monitor yourself for symptoms. According to the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention, symptoms of Hepatitis A include:

- Yellow skin or eyes
- Lack of appetite
- Upset stomach
- Stomach pain
- Vomiting
- Fever
- Dark urine or light-colored stools
- Joint pain
- Diarrhea
- Fatigue

MAIN OFFICES:
ADIRONDACK BANK BLDG., 5TH FL.,
185 GENESEE ST. UTICA, NY 13501
TEL: (315) 798-6400 • FAX: (315) 266-6138

CLINIC SITE:
406 ELIZABETH ST., UTICA, NY 13501
TEL: (315) 798-5748 • FAX: (315) 798-1057

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH:
ADIRONDACK BANK BLDG., 4TH FL.,
185 GENESEE ST. UTICA, NY 13501
TEL: (315) 798-5064 • FAX: (315) 798-6484

Symptoms commonly appear within 28 days of exposure, with a range of 15 to 50 days. The post exposure vaccine would not be effective for patrons who were exposed prior to June 23, 2020. If you have any of these symptoms, please contact the OCHD or your health care provider. Hepatitis A is transmitted by consuming food or drinks or by using utensils that have been handled by an infected person. It may also be spread from person to person by ingesting something that has been contaminated by the infected person. Casual contact, such as sitting together, does not spread the virus.

Taco Bell has been notified of potential Hepatitis A exposure, and is cooperating with the OCHD. OCHD staff are inspecting the restaurant and will conduct additional inspections over the coming weeks.

“All those who are eligible should get vaccinated for Hepatitis A,” said Phyllis D. Ellis, BSN, MS, FACHE, Director of Health.