



KENT COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT



COUNTY OF KENT

WILLIAM WEBB, HEALTH OFFICER
125 S. LYNCHBURG STREET, CHESTERTOWN, MARYLAND 21620 • PHONE: 410-778-1350

STATE OF MARYLAND

For Immediate Release: April 12, 2019

Media Contact: Charlene Perry, Public Health Emergency Planner

Phone: 410-778-1050 **Email:** charlene.perry@maryland.gov

Potential Hepatitis A Exposure at Buffalo Wild Wings, Middletown, DE.

Yesterday, the Delaware Division of Public Health announced that employees and patrons of Buffalo Wild Wings located on 540 W. Main St., Middletown, may have been exposed to the Hepatitis A virus between March 31 and April 10, 2019. The Kent County Health Department (KCHD) became aware of a situation today.

While it is relatively rare for restaurant patrons to become infected with hepatitis A virus from a food establishment due to standard sanitation practices, anyone who consumed food or drink at Buffalo Wild Wings between March 31 and April 10 should contact their health care provider for further guidance regarding the potential exposure. Those without a healthcare provider should contact the KCHD 410-778-1350. Individuals who were exposed to hepatitis A virus and have not been vaccinated against hepatitis A, might benefit from an injection of either hepatitis A vaccine or post-exposure prophylaxis. A health professional can decide what is best based on your age and overall health.

Hepatitis A is a contagious liver infection caused by the hepatitis A virus. It can range from a mild illness lasting a few weeks to a severe illness lasting several months. Hepatitis A usually spreads when a person unknowingly ingests the virus from objects, food, or drinks contaminated by small, undetected amounts of stool from an infected person. The virus can spread when an infected person does not wash his/her hands properly after going to the bathroom and then touches food or engages in other behaviors that increase the risk of infection.

Not everyone has symptoms. If symptoms develop contact a healthcare provider immediately. Symptoms usually appear 2 to 6 weeks after being exposed and can include:

- Loss of appetite
- Nausea or Sick to the stomach
- Vomiting
- Tiredness
- Fever
- Stomach pain
- Brown-colored urine and light-colored stools
- Yellowing of the skin or eyes

There is no specific treatment for hepatitis A infection. Generally rest, fluids and good nutrition is all that is needed.

The best way to prevent Hepatitis A is by getting vaccinated. Careful hand washing, including under the fingernails, with soap and water, is an important tool to prevent the spread of this disease. For more information about Hepatitis A, visit www.cdc.gov/hepatitis, or call the KCHD 410-778-1350.

#####