



Joint Statement From Cabell-Huntington Health Department and O'Charley's Restaurant and Bar
(05-17-2018)

Contact:

Elizabeth A. Adkins, MS
Director of Health & Wellness/PIO
Cabell-Huntington Health Department
Office (304) 523-6483 ext. 258
Fax (304) 523-6482
elizabeth.a.adkins@wv.gov
cabellhealth.org

Tori Ross
Reed Public Relations
Office: (615) 645-4325
Cell: (978) 273-0207
tori@reedpublicrelations.com

CABELL-HUNTINGTON HEALTH DEPARTMENT CONFIRMS HEPATITIS A IN FOOD SERVICE WORKER

HUNTINGTON, WV - The Cabell-Huntington Health Department (CHHD) has confirmed a case of Hepatitis A in a food service worker at O'Charley's Restaurant and Bar, 3060 Champion Drive in Barboursville, WV.

"While the risk of disease transmission is very low, persons who have not been vaccinated against hepatitis A and who consumed food or drink at the restaurant between May 6 and May 13, 2018 should consider getting hepatitis A vaccine injection not more than two weeks after their exposure to help prevent infection," said Cabell County Health Officer, Dr. Michael Kilkenny. Your health care provider or the Cabell-Huntington Health Department can help determine proper prevention for you. Hepatitis A vaccine is available from most health care provider offices, pharmacies, and urgent care clinics, but you should call ahead to ensure availability. CHHD has limited vaccine available for individuals without insurance who can't afford it.

The purpose of this alert is preventive; no cases resulting from exposure at the restaurant have been reported. A CHHD investigation finds the restaurant to be safe for operation, today.

"O'Charley's is committed to the health and safety of employees and guests. As soon as O'Charley's was made aware of the situation, they alerted the department of health to ensure all necessary steps were taken to guarantee the safety of their restaurant community. The department of health reviewed O'Charley's food handling practices and did not find a need for critical action beyond establishing general awareness of the incident among guests. O'Charley's will continue partnering with the health department while upholding a commitment to the highest health and food safety standards within all restaurants."

Hepatitis A is a viral disease of the liver. It is spread from person to person by the "fecal-oral" route, often by inadequate handwashing after using the toilet or changing diapers.

Persons suspecting that they have symptoms of hepatitis should contact their health care provider. Persons working as food handlers who experience symptoms of hepatitis should not work and should be seen by a health care provider. The symptoms include nausea, loss of appetite, vomiting, fatigue, fever, abdominal cramps, dark colored urine, light or whitish-colored stools, and jaundice (a yellow color to the eyes or skin). Incubation period is two to six weeks from exposure to symptoms. Persons with questions should contact their personal health care provider or the Cabell-Huntington Health Department at (304) 523-6483.

Prevention: Thorough handwashing with soap and hot water after using the toilet and before handling food is the most important factor in preventing spread. Vaccinations are highly effective if received within 14 days of exposure.

This investigation is part of a multistate outbreak of Hepatitis A. CHHD is working closely with the WV Bureau of Public Health to address cases, contacts and immunization in high risk populations. Further information on Hepatitis A can be obtained at www.cabellhealth.org or <https://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/hav/>. An outbreak status update for Cabell County will be released May 18, 2018.

#