



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

VIRGINIA PRESSLER, MD
DIRECTOR

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**HEPATITIS A INFECTION IN FOOD SERVICE WORKER
AT KAPOLEI ZIPPY'S**

HONOLULU – The Hawaii State Department of Health (DOH) has confirmed an additional case of hepatitis A in an Oahu food service worker. The infected case is an employee at Zippy's Restaurant, located at 950 Kamokila Blvd. in Kapolei. The employee worked evenings and nights at the sit-down dining section and bakery of the restaurant (and did not work at the fast-food window) on Aug. 14, 18–19, 21, 23, and 25–26, 2016.

“This case is a reminder that even though contaminated scallops have been removed from the market, the long hepatitis A incubation period means we must continue to remain vigilant for new cases,” said State Epidemiologist Dr. Sarah Park. “DOH will continue to work with the public and businesses to prevent further illness.”

The likelihood that patrons of this business will become infected is very low. Most people do not get sick when an employee at a restaurant has Hepatitis A. However, if an infected food handler is infectious and has poor hygiene, the risk goes up for patrons of that restaurant. DOH is providing information on food handlers to the public as a precaution and in an attempt to prevent any new cases.

To date, DOH has confirmed a total of 241 cases of hepatitis A as part of this outbreak investigation. Updated case counts and information are provided each Wednesday along with a complete list of food service establishments who have had employees diagnosed with hepatitis infection within the past 50 days at <http://health.hawaii.gov/docd/hepatitis-a-outbreak-2016>. If a person is exposed to the virus, symptoms of hepatitis A infection may appear up to 50 days after exposure.

Vaccination provides the best protection from hepatitis A, so any person who consumed food or beverage products prepared or served at this business during the identified periods may want to contact their healthcare providers about receiving a vaccine or immune globulin (IG). This may provide some protection against the disease if administered within two weeks after exposure. A statewide list of vaccinating pharmacies can be found at http://health.hawaii.gov/docd/files/2013/07/IMM_Adult_Resource_List.pdf or by calling the Aloha United Way information and referral line at 2-1-1.

Help prevent the spread of hepatitis A by washing your hands often and thoroughly, especially after using the bathroom and before preparing food. For more information on proper handwashing, please go to the following site: <http://health.hawaii.gov/docd/dib/infectious-disease-surveillance/handwashing>.

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