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MEDIA RELEASE

Information **Advisory** Warning Update

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St Clair County Health Department Investigating Hepatitis A Case in Food Worker Community Vaccination Clinic Being Held October 23 in Algonac

The St. Clair County Health Department is investigating a case of hepatitis A related to an ill food worker. The employee worked at Algonac Flaming Grill restaurant located at 1065 St. Clair River Drive in Algonac. The Health Department is alerting the patrons/guests to the possible exposure. The restaurant owners and employees are cooperating fully with St. Clair County Health Department. The owner is being fully compliant with the health department's recommendations of vaccination measures and proper cleaning procedures. We are working closely with the restaurant to vaccinate all employees and to eliminate any additional risk of exposure. The ill food worker is currently not working at the restaurant. The restaurant remains open at this time. Concerned individuals and members of the media are urged to contact the St. Clair County Health Department or their health care provider with questions. Please do not contact the restaurant.

Patrons/guests who ate at the restaurant or had carry-out food between October 6, 2017 – October 20, 2017 may have been exposed. It is important to recognize symptoms of hepatitis A and to get vaccinated if you were exposed. Hepatitis A is a vaccine preventable disease. **If you feel that you have been exposed, the St. Clair County Health Department will be hosting a free, community vaccination clinic on Monday, October 23, 2017 from 2:00pm to 6:00pm at the Algonac Lions Club located at 1905 Mill Street in Algonac.**

The hepatitis A virus is most commonly spread from person-to-person by the fecal-oral route. Most infections result from contact with an infected household member or sex partners. Sometimes, infection results from food or drink that is contaminated with the virus. Hepatitis A symptoms can include abdominal pain, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, dark urine, clay colored stool, fever, chills, yellow skin and eyes (jaundice). Symptoms occur between 15 and 50 days after exposure and can last for several weeks to months. Contact your physician immediately if you have these symptoms.

Prevention tips include:

- Get vaccinated against hepatitis A
- Wash hands after using the restroom and before eating or preparing meals for yourself or others

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- Use your own towels, toothbrushes, and eating utensils
- Do not have sex with someone who has the infection
- Do not share food, drinks, drugs, or smokes with other people
- If you think you may have hepatitis A, see your doctor
- If you have hepatitis A, please cooperate with your local public health department to help protect others

There have been 431 cases of hepatitis A diagnosed in Southeast Michigan since August 2016, a sixteen-fold increase compared to the previous year. City of Detroit and counties of Lapeer, Livingston, Macomb, Monroe, Oakland, St. Clair, Sanilac, Washtenaw, and Wayne have all been affected. Learn more about the Southeast Michigan outbreak at www.mi.gov/hepatitisaoutbreak.

For more information, please contact (810)987-5300 during regular business hours or visit www.scchealth.co. Follow us on social media @scchealth. Hepatitis A fact located at <http://www.stclaircounty.org/Offices/health/forms/FactSheets/Hepatitis%20A.pdf>

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