

MEDIA RELEASE

Information **Advisory** Warning Update

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FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

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***St. Clair County Health Department Identifies Hepatitis A Exposure
Related to National Frozen Strawberry Recall***

The FDA is currently investigating a nationwide outbreak of Hepatitis A as a result of possible contamination in frozen strawberries imported into the United States. The International Company for Agricultural Production & Processing (ICAPP) voluntarily recalled certain lots of frozen strawberries as they may be linked to the outbreak in the United States. The recalled products were distributed for sale and use in food service establishments nationwide- not for use in food products offered for retail sale to consumers. The original recall, issued by ICAPP on Sunday, October 30, can be viewed at <http://www.fda.gov/Safety/Recalls/ucm527273.htm>.

At this time, one establishment in St. Clair County has identified an exposure among residents and staff with the affected product; Medilodge of Port Huron, located at 5635 Lakeshore Rd, Fort Gratiot Township. The St. Clair County Health Department is working together with the facility administration to begin preventive measures including vaccination with Hepatitis A vaccine for those at highest risk.

Hepatitis A is a contagious liver disease that results from infection with the Hepatitis A virus. It can range in severity from a mild illness lasting a few weeks to a severe illness lasting several months. Hepatitis A is usually spread when a person consumes the virus from contact with objects, food, or drinks contaminated by feces or stool from an infected person. Hepatitis A vaccination can prevent illness if given within two weeks of exposure to a contaminated food. Annette Mercatante, MD, MPH, Medical Health Officer for the Health Department explained, "*The best way to prevent Hepatitis A is through vaccination with the Hepatitis A vaccine. If someone has previously received their Hepatitis A vaccine series, they are not considered at risk for the virus*".

For more information, visit our website at www.scchealth.co or call (810) 987-5300.

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