



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**HEALTH OFFICIALS RECOMMEND HEPATITIS A
VACCINATION FOR INDIVIDUALS WHO ATE FOOD AT ARNI'S MARKET SQUARE**

LAFAYETTE—Tippecanoe County health officials have diagnosed a case of hepatitis A in an employee who handled food at Arni's Market Square located at 2200 Elmwood Avenue in Lafayette, Indiana. An investigation found that the employee worked while ill on 9/13/19 and 9/14/19, prior to diagnosis.

While it is relatively rare for restaurant patrons to become infected with hepatitis A virus due to an infected food handler, anyone who consumed food or drink at Arni's Market Square in Lafayette during these dates is recommended to receive a hepatitis A vaccination within 14 days of exposure as further protection from becoming ill. Arni's is working closely with health officials to prevent any new cases from arising as a result of this case, and the restaurant is open for business. A thorough disinfection of the restaurant has been conducted.

A free vaccination clinic is scheduled at the Tippecanoe County Health Department for those with potential exposure to hepatitis A during the specified dates.

Tippecanoe County Health Department
629 N. 6th St., Ste. A, Lafayette, IN
Hep A Hotline: (765) 423-9798

- **8:00 AM-12:00 PM and 1:00-4:00 PM on Monday, September 23rd**
- **8:00 AM-12:00 PM and 1:00-7:00 PM on Tuesday, September 24th**

Anyone who can't attend the vaccination clinic during the scheduled times should contact their personal medical provider or may contact the Tippecanoe County Health Department for an appointment before 9/27/19. Vaccine must be administered within two weeks after the last day of exposure.

Anyone who consumed food and/or drink at Arni's Market Square on 9/13/19 or 9/14/19 are also asked to:

- Monitor their health for symptoms of hepatitis A infection up to 50 days after exposure.
- Wash their hands with soap and warm water frequently and thoroughly, especially after using the bathroom and before preparing food.
- Stay at home and contact their healthcare provider immediately if symptoms of hepatitis A infection develop.

Careful handwashing, including under the fingernails, with soap and water, along with vaccination of anyone at risk of infection, will help prevent the spread of this disease.

Hepatitis A is a viral infection of the liver that can cause loss of appetite, nausea, tiredness, fever, stomach pain, brown colored urine, and light colored stools. Yellowing of the skin or eyes may also appear. People can become ill up to seven weeks after being exposed to the virus. 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 spreads when an infected person does not wash his/her hands adequately after using the toilet or engages in behaviors that increase risk of infection.

Indiana is one of several states experiencing a hepatitis A outbreak, so all residents are urged to consult their healthcare providers and pharmacies for a hepatitis A vaccine as preventive care. Careful handwashing with soap and running water is also recommended, especially before preparing food.

Indiana law has required a hepatitis A vaccine for school admission since 2014, and the vaccine was required for students entering sixth and 12th grades in 2018, so many students have already been vaccinated.

Indiana health officials have been working to educate the public, restaurants, jails, groups that serve homeless populations and those who use illicit drugs about the outbreak and ways to prevent the disease. ISDH also provides outbreak updates on its [website](#).

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