

POTENTIAL HEPATITIS A EXPOSURE AT FACTORIA EVENT SPACE AND FIN & BREW RESTAURANT IN PEEKSKILL

FEBRUARY 24, 2020

What happened at Factoria and Fin & Brew in Peekskill?

An employee may have spread Hepatitis A virus while working, before the worker was diagnosed with the illness. Because of how Hepatitis A is spread, this may have placed others at risk of acquiring Hepatitis A. Only guests and coworkers who ate or drank at a private event at The Space at Factoria on Feb. 15, or at Fin & Brew restaurant on Feb. 15, 16 or 19, are at risk of acquiring Hepatitis A. Those who ate or drank anywhere else in the complex are not at risk.

What is Hepatitis A and how is it spread?

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 ingests fecal matter — even in microscopic amounts — from contact with objects, food, or drinks contaminated by the feces, or stool, of an infected person.

What are the symptoms of Hepatitis A?

Some people with Hepatitis A do not have any symptoms. Children in particular may not show symptoms. If you do have symptoms, they may include the following:

- Fever
- Fatigue
- Loss of appetite
- Nausea
- Vomiting
- Abdominal pain
- Dark urine
- Clay-colored bowel movements
- Joint pain
- Jaundice (a yellowing of the skin or eyes)

How severe is Hepatitis A?

Almost all people who get Hepatitis A recover completely and do not have any lasting liver damage, although they may feel sick for months. Hepatitis A can sometimes cause liver failure and death, although this is rare and occurs more commonly in persons 50 years of age or older and persons with other liver diseases, such as Hepatitis B or C.

If I get Hepatitis A, when will symptoms start?

Symptoms will usually develop within 2-6 weeks after being exposed to the Hepatitis A virus. Most see symptoms start right around 4 weeks after exposure.

How is Hepatitis A treated?

There are no special treatments for Hepatitis A. Most people with Hepatitis A will feel sick for a few months before they begin to feel better. A few people will need to be hospitalized. During this time, doctors usually recommend rest, adequate nutrition, and fluids. People with Hepatitis A should check with a health professional before taking any prescription pills, supplements, or over-the-counter medications, which can potentially damage the liver. Alcohol should be avoided.

What should I do if I think I may have been exposed?

If you have received hepatitis A vaccine or have had hepatitis A illness, you are protected from this potential exposure and do not need to take any further action.

If you ate or drank at The Space at Factoria on Feb. 15, or at Fin & Brew restaurant on Feb. 15, 16 or 19, are at risk of acquiring Hepatitis A and should obtain post-exposure treatment within two weeks of the date they dined. Preventive treatment will help those exposed during this period to avoid Hepatitis A illness or lessen the symptoms.

Where can I receive post-exposure treatment?

The Westchester County Health Department will offer free preventive treatment to individuals who attended a private event on Feb. 15 at The Factoria Event Space or at the Fin & Brew restaurant on Feb. 15, 16 or 19. The clinics will be held at the Westchester County Department of Health, 134 Court Street, White Plains, NY 10601. To register, go to www.health.ny.gov/gotoclinic/60 Clinics will be held on:

- **Tuesday, February 25, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. to 7 p.m.**
- **Wednesday, February 26, 11 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.**
- **Thursday, February 27, 11 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.**

For other times by appointment during clinic hours, call 914-995-7499

Do I have to make an appointment?

Walk-ins are welcome, but appointments are recommended. If you prefer, your physician may be able to provide you with preventive treatment.

What if I am too late to get the treatment, or choose to not get treated?

Monitor yourself for signs and symptoms of Hepatitis A over the next 4-6 weeks. If you have any symptoms, contact your physician and be sure to tell them that you may have been exposed to Hepatitis A.

How do I know if I have already been vaccinated for Hepatitis A?

Hepatitis A vaccination is recommended for children, but not required for school entry. Many international travelers already have been vaccinated. If you do not know if you or your child has received the Hepatitis A vaccine, contact your or your child's healthcare provider.

Is the Hepatitis A vaccine effective?

Yes, the Hepatitis A vaccine is highly effective in preventing Hepatitis A virus infection. Protection begins approximately 2 to 4 weeks after the first injection.