



Public Health Advisory

Hepatitis A in Chesterfield Inlet

February 21, 2019

Chesterfield Inlet, NU

The Department of Health advises residents of Chesterfield Inlet that there are still cases of Hepatitis A in the community. Residents should take extra precaution to help prevent the spread of Hepatitis A.

Hepatitis A can range in severity from a mild illness lasting a few weeks to a severe illness lasting several months. You can get the Hepatitis A virus by eating contaminated food or water or through contact with an infected person's feces (stool).

People infected with Hepatitis A can have a wide range of symptoms. Some do not get sick at all, though they can still spread the infection to others. A person typically gets sick 30 days after being exposed to someone with the virus (can range from 15-50 days). Symptoms can include:

- fever;
- loss of appetite;
- stomach cramps; and
- jaundice (yellowing of the skin and eyes).

Please take the following steps to help prevent the spread of Hepatitis A:

- Wash your hands with soap and water after using the washroom, changing diapers, and before preparing or eating food.
- If you think that you have been exposed to the Hepatitis A virus or any other gastrointestinal illness, do not prepare food or pour water for others.

If you are a caregiver or babysitter for anyone who has had Hepatitis A, please go to the health centre to get the vaccine.

If you or someone in your household is showing symptoms of Hepatitis A, go to your health centre immediately as soon as you begin to feel sick.

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Media Contact:

Sara Arsenault
Communications Specialist
Department of Health
867-975-5949
sarsenault@gov.nu.ca

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