

November 4, 2016

The Wyoming Department of Health, Wyoming Department of Agriculture, and Sheridan School District #2 have been notified of a recent recall of frozen strawberries that could potentially be contaminated with Hepatitis A virus (HAV) and were served at Sagebrush Elementary, Henry A. Coffeen Elementary, Highland Park Elementary, Sheridan Jr. High School and Sheridan High School on October 25, 28, 31, and November 1.

It is recommended that all school staff members, attendees, or parents who consumed the recalled strawberries in the past two weeks contact their healthcare provider to find out if they have received a Hepatitis A vaccination in the past. Those who have been vaccinated are protected. Those who have not received a vaccination, or are unsure, may need post exposure prophylaxis (PEP).

Hepatitis A is a contagious virus. Illness can range in severity from mild illness lasting a few weeks to more severe illness lasting several months. Infection with HAV does not result in chronic infection. Hepatitis A is spread through person-to-person contact or by ingesting contaminated food or water. Symptoms appear 15 to 50 days after exposure to HAV, with an average of 28 days. Not every person infected with HAV will become ill and may experience mild flu-like symptoms. Symptoms include yellow eyes or skin, abdominal pain, fever, fatigue, loss of appetite, nausea, vomiting, joint pain, pale stools and dark urine. It can also cause liver disease.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends that all unvaccinated persons who consumed the recalled strawberries in the past two weeks receive PEP. PEP consists of:

- **HAV vaccine for people between the ages of 1 year and 40 years.**
- **Immunoglobulin (IG) for people <1 year old and over 40 years. If IG is unavailable, hepatitis A vaccine can be substituted.**

More information about Hepatitis A can be found on the CDC's website:
<https://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/hav/index.htm>

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this notice, please contact your school nurse, primary care physician, Sheridan County Public Health office at 307.672.5169 or Tiffany Lupcho at the Wyoming Department of Health at 307.777.7007.