



Health & Community Services

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News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Frozen Strawberry Recall and Hepatitis A

(Updated 11/4/2016, 3:30 PM)

Kalamazoo, Mich. [November 4, 2016] – Kalamazoo County Health & Community Services received information from the Michigan Department of Health & Human Services (MDHHS) and Michigan Department of Agriculture (MDARD) that food establishments & organizations within the County have been impacted by the recent recall of frozen strawberries that were contaminated with hepatitis A.

Upon notification on Thursday, November 3rd, Kalamazoo County Environmental Health has been working closely with local food establishments and organizations that received potentially contaminated frozen strawberries to identify dates they may have been served and to ensure that all products have been removed. At this time, there have been no cases of hepatitis A due to consumption of contaminated strawberries in Kalamazoo County.

Hepatitis A is a contagious liver disease that is a result of infection with the hepatitis A virus. Hepatitis A can range in severity from mild illness, lasting a few weeks, to severe illness, lasting several months. Illness generally occurs 15 to 50 days following exposure and includes fever, fatigue, loss of appetite, nausea, abdominal pain, jaundice, abnormal liver tests, dark urine, and pale stool. Anyone with symptoms of hepatitis A should contact their healthcare provider immediately.

The best way to prevent hepatitis A is through vaccination. The hepatitis A vaccine is recommended as part of routine childhood vaccinations and for adults at high risk. If you are unsure if you have been vaccinated against hepatitis A, check with your medical provider or Kalamazoo County Disease Surveillance at (269) 373-5267 to check your immunization records.

An earlier release identified that a food establishment in Kalamazoo County may have served the recalled frozen strawberries. However, upon further review of their inventory, it has been confirmed by Kalamazoo County Environmental Health that no recalled product was served in the last 14 days. At this time, Kalamazoo County Health & Community Services does not believe there to be a present threat to public health.

Kalamazoo County Health & Community Services will continue to monitor this recall and keep our county updated on any new information. Additionally, a list of locations where the hepatitis A vaccination is available will be available on the Department's webpage under "Hot Topics," found at the following link: www.kalcounty.com/hcs.

Local Public Health Departments across the State are working together to update facilities that have been affected by the recall and that may have served the contaminated frozen strawberries. A listing of facilities that had received the contaminated product will be maintained by the Michigan Department of Agriculture & Rural Development. However, through individualized follow-up by Kalamazoo County Environmental Health, only the facility noted above served the potentially contaminated product during the past 14 days in Kalamazoo County.

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Related Resources:

Release from MDARD & MDHHS: <http://www.michigan.gov/som/0,4669,7-192-47796-396983--,00.html>

CDC: <http://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/outbreaks/2016/hav-strawberries.htm>

Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development: www.michigan.gov/mdard

Michigan Department of Health & Human Services: www.michigan.gov/mdhhs

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