



## Steuben County Public Health

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **DUNKIN' DONUTS EMPLOYEE CONFIRMED FOR HEPATITIS A VIRUS: DINE-IN AND TAKEOUT PATRONS DURING SPECIFIC TIME FRAME MAY HAVE BEEN EXPOSED**

**BATH, NY** – The Steuben County Public Health Department (SCPH) confirmed a case of hepatitis A in an individual who worked for several days while infectious at Dunkin' Donuts located at 350 W. Morris Street in Bath. This may have put customers and coworkers at that Dunkin' Donuts at risk of acquiring hepatitis A infection.

Public health officials are stressing there is a low risk of contracting illness, however, individuals who have not been previously vaccinated for Hepatitis A and who consumed food or drink from the Dunkin' Donuts on August 17 through August 22 should monitor themselves and their families for symptoms for 50 days and seek medical evaluation for Hepatitis A if they develop symptoms of this infection.

“The Hepatitis A virus can be transmitted through consuming food or drinks that have been contaminated by an infectious individual,” said Darlene Smith, Public Health Director. “We recommend all residents get the Hepatitis A vaccine as part of their routine vaccine schedule. For those who have not been previously vaccinated, getting the Hepatitis A vaccine within two weeks of an exposure can prevent development of the infection. Even though we are beyond the two-week window in this case, it is particularly important for those who may have been exposed at Dunkin' Donuts on August 17 – 22 to consult with their healthcare provider.”

Symptoms of Hepatitis A can include:

- Fever
- Fatigue
- Loss of appetite
- Nausea
- Vomiting
- Abdominal pain
- Dark urine
- Clay-colored stools
- Joint pain
- Jaundice (yellowing of the skin and eyes)

Persons who have been vaccinated against hepatitis A or have had hepatitis A disease in the past are protected from hepatitis A infection, and there is no need for further action. Contact your healthcare provider or Steuben County Public Health with questions at 607-664-2438.

#### **For more information:**

About the Steuben County Public Health Department, visit <http://www.steubencony.org/publichealth>  
About Hepatitis A, visit [https://www.health.ny.gov/diseases/communicable/hepatitis/hepatitis\\_a/](https://www.health.ny.gov/diseases/communicable/hepatitis/hepatitis_a/)

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## **Facts about Hepatitis A:**

- Hepatitis A is a highly contagious liver infection caused by the hepatitis A virus. It can range from no symptoms at all, to a mild illness lasting a few weeks, to a severe illness lasting several months. Although rare, hepatitis A can cause death in some people.
- 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. This can happen from eating at a restaurant, sharing food or drink, or eating when traveling in one of the many countries outside the United States with a high Hepatitis A infection rate.
- People who are most at risk of Hepatitis A include:
  - People with direct contact with someone who has a hepatitis A infection. This can occur up to 2 weeks before the infected person develops any symptoms, so you may not be aware of your exposure at the time.
  - Travelers to countries where hepatitis A is common, which include most countries outside the United States. More information is available on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's web site.
  - Men who have sexual contact with men,
  - People who use drugs, both injection and non-injection drugs, and
  - Homeless individuals