

SAMPLE LETTER TO PARENTS-OUTBREAK

Dear Parents:

We have evidence that there is an outbreak of hepatitis A in _____ Child Care Center. Our evaluation of the cases of hepatitis in this child care center has led public health make several recommendations at this time for the families, children, and staff associated with the center.

Post exposure prophylaxis of either hepatitis A vaccine or Immune globulin (IG), which are both shots, give protection against hepatitis A disease if given before exposure to the virus or within the first two weeks after the last exposure. IG is protective for approximately 2-3 months.

1. WE RECOMMEND THAT POST EXPOSURE PROPHYLAXIS BE GIVEN AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO:

- a. All children who attend _____ Child Care Center (unless the child has ever had hepatitis A infection, hepatitis A vaccine, or has had immune globulin in the past month).
 - b. All parents, brothers, sisters and other close contacts of diapered children (unless that person has ever had hepatitis A infection, hepatitis A vaccine, or has had immune globulin in the past month).
 - c. Close contacts of non-diapered children who may be at increased risk of developing hepatitis; these should consult their physician regarding the need for post exposure prophylaxis.
2. The immune globulin shot your child receives may interfere with immunizations for measles, mumps, rubella, and chickenpox. If your child received one of these immunizations in the two weeks before receiving immune globulin, it should be repeated at a later date. Your child should not receive any of the above immunizations for at least 3 months after receiving immune globulin. Check with your healthcare provider.
 3. Good hygiene is of utmost importance and must be stressed. Strict handwashing and cleanliness can successfully stop transmission of hepatitis A. **PLEASE** read the hygiene recommendations on the **Fact Sheet: Hepatitis A in Child Care.**
 4. Please notify _____ Local Health Department at (phone number) if you or any of your family members are diagnosed as having hepatitis A.
 5. Please do not remove your child(ren) from this child care center as this can increase the spread of hepatitis by introducing the disease into other centers, nurseries, or homes. Since they may have already been exposed at the current child care, disrupting the child's life by sending them to a new child care is not productive.

This letter should only be issued under the direction of a local public health department or the Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology (CADE) which is part of the Iowa Department of Public Health. Individual healthcare providers, school officials, and childcare providers are not authorized to independently issue this letter.

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