



Health Alert Network

Tri-County Health Department

Serving Adams, Arapahoe and Douglas Counties

Phone 303/220-9200 • Fax 303/741-4173 • www.tchd.org

Follow us on Twitter @TCHDHealth

John M. Douglas, Jr., M.D. Executive Director

The pages that follow contain information critical to protecting the health of your patients and the citizens of Colorado.

HAN ADVISORY

Number of pages including cover: 4

Subject: Advisory - Frozen blackberry recall for possible hepatitis A risk - June 11, 2019

Message ID: 6/12/2019 9:15:00 AM

Recipients: HAN Community Members.

From: TRI-COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Adams, Arapahoe and Douglas County, Colorado

Recipient Instructions: This HAN has been adapted by TCHD from its original form (sent out 6/11/2019 by CDPHE). Please note, you may have received a similar HAN from CDPHE.

=====

You have received this message based upon the information contained within our Health Alert Network Notification System. If you have a different or additional e-mail or fax address that you would like us to use, or if you have additional questions, call 720-200-1477.

Categories of Health Alert Network Messages:

Health Alert: Conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention.

Health Advisory: Provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action.

Health Update: Provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; unlikely to require immediate action.

Info Service/Public Health Brief: Provides general information that is not necessarily considered to be of an emergent nature.

**You may download a copy of this HAN from the TCHD website at
<http://www.tchd.org/259/Health-Alert-Network>**

HEALTH Advisory | Frozen blackberry recall for possible hepatitis A risk | June 11, 2019

Health care providers: Please distribute widely in your office

Key points

- On Friday, June 7, 2019, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) announced a recall of Kroger Private Selection Frozen Triple Berry Medley (48 oz), Private Selection Frozen Triple Berry Medley (16 oz), and Private Selection Frozen Blackberries (16 oz) manufactured by Townsend Farms, due to possible hepatitis A contamination of blackberries included in these products. Information about the recalled products, including “best by” dates can be found at www.fda.gov/food/alerts-advisories-safety-information/public-health-alert-concerning-hepatitis-virus-contamination-kroger-brand-frozen-blackberries
- At this time, the FDA and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) are not aware of any cases of hepatitis A linked to the consumption of these products.
- Providers may be contacted by patients who consumed these products or received notice that they purchased these products. Based on currently available information, it is not possible to provide an estimated risk of infection if someone consumed these products. Consider use of hepatitis A post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) for people who consumed recalled product within the last 14 days and do not have a history of hepatitis A vaccination or prior infection.
- At this time, only the recalled Kroger blackberries identified by the FDA are of concern and should be immediately discarded. Other blackberries should be safe to consume.

Background information

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) announced June 7, 2019, that Kroger is recalling the following products that contain frozen blackberries due to hepatitis A virus (HAV) contamination:

- PRIVATE SELECTION FROZEN TRIPLE BERRY MEDLEY, 48 OZ (BEST BY: 07-07-20; UPC: 0001111079120);
- PRIVATE SELECTION FROZEN TRIPLE BERRY MEDLEY, 16 OZ (BEST BY: 06-19-20; UPC: 0001111087808);
- PRIVATE SELECTION FROZEN BLACKBERRIES, 16 OZ (BEST BY: 06-19-20, 07-02-20; UPC: 0001111087809)

The products were distributed to all Kroger family stores across the country (King Soopers and City Market in Colorado). The FDA is continuing to investigate to determine whether there are other implicated products. At this time, the FDA and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) are not aware of any cases of HAV linked to the consumption of recalled products.

Kroger has removed the potentially affected items from store shelves and initiated its customer recall notification system that alerts customers who may have purchased recalled products through receipt notices and phone calls. Customers who have purchased the above products should not consume them and should dispose of the products or return them to a store for a refund or replacement.

Hepatitis A information

- Incubation period: 15-50 days (average 28 days).
- Symptoms: Acute onset of fever, gastrointestinal symptoms (vomiting, diarrhea, abdominal pain), dark urine, clay-colored stool, and jaundice (yellow skin or eyes) due to liver inflammation; young children typically have mild illness or can be asymptomatic.
- Transmission: Fecal-oral; consuming contaminated food or drinks.
- Infectious period: A person with HAV is infectious (shedding virus through their stool) from two weeks before the onset of symptoms until one week after jaundice onset.
- Diagnosis: By serological test for IgM antibody to HAV in addition to compatible clinical signs and symptoms. Total hepatitis A antibody tests detect both IgM and IgG antibodies combined. Total hepatitis A antibody alone cannot distinguish between acute infection, previous infection, or immunity and is not recommended for confirming a diagnosis of acute hepatitis A. Order a hepatitis A IgM antibody test to diagnosis acute HAV infection in symptomatic people.
- Disease control: People with suspected or confirmed HAV infection should be promptly reported to Tri-County Health Department (303-220-9200) or CDPHE (303-692-2700). Advise the patient not to handle or prepare food for others and to avoid engaging in sexual activity until seven days after the onset of their jaundice. Cases who are food handlers or work in health care settings should be excluded from work until seven days after the onset of their jaundice, or 14 days after symptom onset if jaundice is not present. Public health investigates reported cases to determine if contacts of cases are eligible for post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP). Household contacts and other close or sexual contacts of hepatitis A cases are at high risk for infection and should be offered PEP as soon as possible. PEP regimen is outlined below.

Recommendations / guidance

- Patients who consumed these products or received notice that they purchased these products may contact their provider. Advise patients to immediately discard the product or return to the store for a refund.
- The risk of infection after consuming this recalled product is unknown. Consider offering PEP if your patient is reasonably sure of consuming the recalled product within the last 14 days and does not have a history of hepatitis A infection or previously receiving at least one dose of hepatitis A vaccine.
- PEP consists of:
 - One dose of hepatitis A vaccine for people 12 months of age and older
 - For infants less than 12 months of age, immune globulin (IG at dose 0.1 mL/kg) should be used since vaccine is not approved for use in this age group
 - Use IG (0.1 mL/kg) in addition to vaccine for people 12 months of age and older with chronic liver disease, congenital or acquired immunodeficiency, HIV/AIDS, chronic renal failure, transplant history, or people on medications that suppress the immune system

- IG is not readily available in most clinics or pharmacies. Public health maintains a supply to use for PEP. Providers should contact Tri-County Health Department (303-220-9200) or CDPHE (303-692-2700) to discuss the need for IG for exposed patients.
-

For more information

- For more information about the recall, visit the FDA's webpage: www.fda.gov/safety/recalls-market-withdrawals-safety-alerts/kroger-recalls-select-frozen-private-selection-berries-possible-health-risk
- For more information about hepatitis A, visit CDC's website: www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/HAV/index.htm
- To report a suspected case of hepatitis A, contact Tri-County Health Department (303-220-9200) or CDPHE at 303-692-2700 (after hours/weekends, 303-370-9395).