



# News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE –  
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## **Update on Hepatitis A Immunizations: 1,450 doses given and counting**

FAYETTEVILLE, NC – The Cumberland County Public Health Department has administered approximately 1,450 doses of Hepatitis A immunizations since Tuesday morning to individuals who may have been exposed to the disease at a local restaurant. About 800 shots were given on Tuesday and by 3 p.m. today the department had administered close to 650 doses.

Military personnel, their family members and retirees can go to Womack Army Medical Center on Fort Bragg for the immunization.

It is important that the public understand that there is a 14-day window when the vaccine is effective so starting on Thursday, only individuals who visited the Olive Garden at 234 North McPherson Church Road anytime on **July 28, 29, 31 and Aug. 1, 2 and 8** should contact the Health Department to receive a free injection of Hepatitis A immune globulin or vaccine.

“We strongly encourage people to bring in their shot records, especially for children,” said Deputy Health Director Rodney Jenkins. Individuals current on Hepatitis A vaccine are considered protected from this virus.

**The Health Department clinic will be open Thursday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. A phone line is being updated hourly. Call 910-433-3824 for important information.**

People who were at the restaurant on any date other than those listed do not need the vaccine. Those who visited prior to July 28 do not need to go to the Health Department on Thursday because both immune globulin (also called gamma globulin) and Hepatitis A vaccine can only prevent infection with Hepatitis A virus if given **within 14 days of exposure**.

Patrons who visited the restaurant prior to July 28 should watch for the signs and symptoms of the disease and discuss them with their primary care physician.

The early signs and symptoms of Hepatitis A appear two to six weeks after exposure and commonly include mild fever, loss of appetite, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, tiredness, pain in the upper right side of the abdomen, dark urine, light color stools and jaundice (yellowness of eyes or skin).

The disease varies in severity, with mild cases lasting two weeks or less and more severe cases lasting 4-6 weeks or longer. Some individuals, especially children, may not develop jaundice or any symptom at all, and may have an illness so mild that it can go unnoticed. However, even mildly ill persons can still be highly infectious. Persons with illness suggestive of hepatitis should consult a physician even if symptoms are mild.

Careful handwashing is key to preventing spread of Hepatitis A and should include vigorous washing of hands with soap and running water for minimum of 20 seconds. All surfaces should be washed including the back of the hands, wrists, between fingers and under fingernails.

For more information see <http://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/A/index.htm>.

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