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**1. HEPATITIS A IN A LOCAL FOOD HANDLER**

Peel Public Health staff identified a case of Hepatitis A in an employee of the Tim Horton's restaurant at 2 Intermodal Drive in Brampton on August 2, 2006.

The risk of transmission to customers in this case is low and Hepatitis A vaccine is not being offered as post-exposure prophylaxis. However, as a precaution, customers who visited this Tim Horton's location between July 8 and 21 have been advised via postings at the restaurant and media releases to monitor for symptoms of Hepatitis A until the end of September 2006.

***You may see patients concerned about Hepatitis A symptoms between now and the end of September 2006. If a blood test is indicated, please write on the requisition form: "Hepatitis A IgM and IgG STAT."***

Please report positive Hepatitis A tests to Peel Public Health by faxing the lab slip to the Peel Surveillance Unit at (905) 458-5345.

**2. DELAY IN AVAILABILITY OF INFLUENZA VACCINE FOR THE 2006-2007 SEASON**

The Public Health Agency of Canada has advised that there will be a delay in the availability of influenza vaccine for the 2006-2007 influenza season due to problems encountered in growing one of the strains recommended for this season's flu shot. This year's vaccine will contain two new strains: an A/Wisconsin/67/2005 (H3N2)-like strain; and a B/Malaysia/2506/2004-like virus strain as well as an A/New Caledonia/20/99 (H1N1)-like strain, which was included in last year's vaccine.

***The most currently available information indicates that limited, initial lots of the vaccine may be available by mid to late October. The majority of the vaccine order should be available by mid to late November.***

The Ministry of Health and Long Term Care has advised that the influenza vaccine should be administered, as a priority, to those individuals who are at high risk of influenza-related complications, as well as those persons who are capable of transmitting influenza to these "high risk" persons/populations (e.g. Health care and Long Term care workers).

**Should you have any questions, please contact Peel Public Health at (905) 799-7700.**