



**Office of the  
Chief Medical  
Health Officer**

**NORTH ISLAND**

**250.331.8591**

Charmaine Enns MD MSc FRCPC  
355-11th Street  
Courtenay, BC V9N 1S4

**CENTRAL ISLAND**

**250.739.6304**

Paul Hasselback MD MSc FRCPC  
3rd Floor, 6475 Metral Drive  
Nanaimo, BC V9T 2L9

**COWICHAN AREA**

**250.737.5747**

Shannon Waters MD MSc FRCPC  
Building 601, 222 Cowichan Way  
Duncan, BC V9L 6P4

**SOUTH ISLAND**

**250.519.3406**

Richard Stanwick, CMHO  
MD MSc FRCPC FAAP

Murray Fyfe MD MSc FRCPC

Dee Hoyano MD FRCPC CCFP

430-1900 Richmond Avenue  
Victoria, BC V8R 4R2

**After Hours On Call**

**1.800.204.6166**

## **Hepatitis A Exposure from Contaminated Pineapple Products**

Dear Physician:

An investigation into hepatitis A virus in fresh pineapple chunks has identified several products that may have been contaminated and pose a risk to consumers. The media was notified on Friday, September 1, 2017 regarding one product (Western Family pineapple chunks in ready-to-go cups). More products have since been identified as potentially contaminated with Hepatitis A. The products implicated were sold at Overwaitea, Save-on-Foods and PriceSmart stores **throughout BC**, as well as Ferraro Foods in Trail, BC.

### **Identified products:**

The products were Western Family brand, or unbranded, and all had a best before date of August 19, 2017.

Pineapple chunks 198 g, 227g and 425g  
Peeled & cored pineapple 16oz  
Fruit salad 198g, 227g and 425g  
Citrus salad 226g

Information is also available under Product Alerts on the Save-On-Foods website: <https://www.saveonfoods.com/product-alerts/>

Investigation is ongoing, and there may be other potentially contaminated food products and additional locations of sale affected. No cases of hepatitis A have yet been reported in British Columbians from this exposure. If additional products are identified, BCCDC will update their information. <http://www.bccdc.ca/about/news-stories/news-releases>

### **Actions:**

If your patients consumed any of these pineapple-containing products:

**In the previous 14 days:** they should receive a single dose of hepatitis A vaccine now, unless they have received two doses of hepatitis A vaccine in the past.

**Between 14 and 50 days ago:** they should watch for signs and symptoms of hepatitis A and seek medical care if they become ill. Vaccine is no longer effective at preventing hepatitis A in these individuals.

**More than 50 days ago:** they are no longer at risk of developing hepatitis A from this exposure.

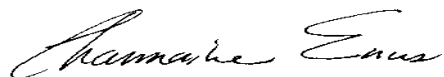
Patients who have frozen this product should discard it.

Patients who have frozen this product should discard it.

Hepatitis A vaccine can be provided free for patients who ate the product in the last 14 days. If you do not have vaccine in your office, **your patients can receive the vaccine from any Save-On-Foods pharmacy** or local public health unit. Hepatitis A vaccine is safe in pregnancy and can be provided to children (pediatric dose) six months of age and older.

If you have any questions, please contact your Medical Health Officer.

Yours in Health,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Charmaine Enns".

Charmaine Enns, MD, MHSc, FRCPC  
Medical Health Officer