



HEPATITIS A

Date:

Dear Parent:

A child at day care has been diagnosed with ***Hepatitis A***. This situation warrants giving gamma globulin injections to all of the children and staff at the childcare center. The Health District is available to administer the gamma globulin on the following date and time: . Gamma globulin will be given to all of the children in the childcare center because: Small children frequently have Hepatitis A without symptoms and can transmit Hepatitis A to family members or other children; and small children often wash their hands inadequately.

Hepatitis A is an inflammation of the liver. Most people recover completely from the illness in about ten days. Symptoms are similar to those of the “flu” with headache, fever, nausea and vomiting. Four to five days after the first symptoms, the white part of the eyes may become yellow.

The spread of the disease usually occurs in the two weeks before the yellow skin or eye coloring occurs. Exposure usually happens by fecal-oral route. Most often this happens when the person who has Hepatitis A uses the restroom and doesn’t wash his/her hands thoroughly and then handles ready-to-eat food that another person eats.

You and your household members having close contact (such as diapering and frequent handling) with your childcare children should consider getting the gamma globulin shot because you have a higher risk of developing Hepatitis A within the next few weeks than people who do not have children in childcare.

The childcare center may remain open. After getting the shots, the risk of getting Hepatitis A drops and it is better for the children to stay in the same setting. For the next six weeks, new children will be admitted only after they have also received the immune globulin.

If you have any questions, please call your Health District.