



## Southwest District Health

920 Main St. • Caldwell, Idaho 83605-3700 • (208) 455-5300 • FAX (208) 454-7722

### **This is an official: HEALTH ALERT: # 08-030**

**Distributed via Facsimile on March 25, 2008**

#### **BOISE RESTAURANT EMPLOYEE TESTS POSITIVE FOR HEPATITIS A**

Health officials from Central District Health Department and Southwest District Health have confirmed that an employee of the Red Feather Lounge, 246 N. 8<sup>th</sup> Street, in downtown Boise, has been diagnosed with hepatitis A.

Because it is likely that the employee followed good hand hygiene and food safety practices, the risk to the public is low. However, patrons of the Red Feather Lounge on these dates --**March 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, and 17** – may have been exposed to the hepatitis A virus (HAV).

Persons who have been vaccinated for HAV or have had the illness in the past are protected from HAV infection. Current CDC recommendations advise that persons who are not protected and are **within 14 days of exposure** should be administered a single dose of single-antigen HAV vaccine or immune globulin (IG) (0.02 mL/kg) as soon as possible. Southwest District Health maintains a limited supply of Immune Globulin (IG), as do some hospital pharmacies.

**Persons who may have been exposed and are within the 14 day period are those who ate or drank at Red Feather Lounge on March 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, or 17.**

- ◆ For healthy persons aged 12 months - 40 years, single-antigen hepatitis A vaccine at the age-appropriate dose is preferred.
- ◆ For persons aged > 40 years, IG is preferred; vaccine can be used if IG cannot be obtained.
- ◆ For children aged < 12 months, immunocompromised persons, persons who have been diagnosed with chronic liver disease, or persons for whom vaccine is contraindicated, IG should be used.

In persons exposed **more than 14 days ago (those who were patrons of the Red Feather Lounge on dates March 5,6,7,8 and 10)**, vaccine or IG treatment will not prevent illness. Those persons should watch for symptoms of HAV and practice good hygiene, including frequent hand washing with soap and water.

#### **Epidemiology of Hepatitis A**

**Transmission:** fecal-oral route by either person-to-person contact or ingestion of contaminated food or drink. **Incubation period:** average 28 days (range 15-50). **Symptoms:** typically with abrupt onset - fever, fatigue, anorexia, nausea, abdominal pain, dark urine, jaundice, and occasionally clay-colored stool. Duration of symptoms usually  $\leq$  2 months but may persist up to 6 months. **Communicability:** 2 weeks before onset of symptoms to 1 week following onset of jaundice.

#### **Laboratory Diagnosis**

Serologic testing (IgM anti-HAV) is required to confirm HAV diagnosis.

**HAV is a reportable disease; please report even suspect cases to Southwest District Health [reporting line (208) 455-5442] within one working day of diagnosis.**

The most current recommendations for the prevention of HAV infection after exposure to HAV are available at: <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5641a3.htm>