



# News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE –  
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## Hepatitis A Vaccination Update: Close to 2,700 Doses Given

FAYETTEVILLE, NC – The Cumberland County Public Health Department has administered almost 2,700 doses of Hepatitis A immunizations since Tuesday morning to individuals who may have been exposed through an employee at a local restaurant. By 3 p.m. Thursday, the department had given 570 shots during the clinic's third day. On Tuesday and Wednesday, an estimated 2,100 people were vaccinated.

- Residents of other counties should check with their local Public Health Department to see if they have the Hepatitis A vaccine.
- Military personnel, their family members and retirees can go to Womack Army Medical Center on Fort Bragg for the immunization.

Deputy Health Director Rodney Jenkins wants the public to understand that there has not been a Hepatitis A outbreak in Cumberland County, but that the Health Department is working to protect citizens who may have been exposed to the disease through an Olive Garden employee diagnosed with the illness.

“We are only aware of one case of illness,” he said, referring to the restaurant employee. Getting the vaccine within the first 14 days of exposure will significantly reduce the chance of getting Hepatitis A.

Starting on Friday, only individuals who visited the Olive Garden at 234 North McPherson Church Road anytime on **July 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 because there is a 14-day window when the vaccine is effective.

**The Health Department clinic will be open Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. A phone line is being updated hourly. Call 910-433-3824 for important information. Bring shot records.** Individuals current on Hepatitis A vaccine are considered protected from this virus.

Patrons who visited the restaurant prior to July 29 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).

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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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