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GTCHD offers Hepatitis A Walk-In Vaccination Clinic TOMORROW Due to Michigan's Renaissance Festival Exposures

On September 1st, an attendee of the Michigan Renaissance Festival in Holly, MI was confirmed with hepatitis A and attended the festival while ill. It is strongly recommended that those who attended and/or worked at the festival on September 1st or September 2nd get a **hepatitis A vaccine by Saturday, September 15**, if they have not already been vaccinated. Those who attended or worked on September 3rd, have until September 17th to receive a post exposure vaccination.

Because vaccination can prevent the disease if given within 14 days after potential exposure, the Grand Traverse County Health Department (GTCHD) is offering an additional **Walk-In Hepatitis A Vaccination Clinic on Saturday, September 15th from 10:00am – 1:00pm**. If individuals have attended and/or worked for the festival in Holly, MI and have not been vaccinated for hepatitis A, please visit our Saturday clinic. The general public who is in need of the hepatitis A vaccine, are also welcome.

Individuals unable to get vaccinated by September 15 (or the 17th for attendees/workers potentially exposed on September 3rd), are advised to be aware of hepatitis A symptoms, such as sudden abdominal pain, diarrhea, nausea, headache, dark urine, and/or vomiting often followed by yellowing of the skin and eyes (jaundice). Symptoms may appear from 14-50 days after exposure, but average about one month. Please contact your doctor if a sudden onset of any symptoms occur.

From August 1, 2016 through today, there have been 886 cases of Hepatitis A virus confirmed across the state of Michigan (the City of Detroit, Macomb, Monroe, Oakland, and Wayne counties, have been hardest hit). In addition, 80% of all cases have been hospitalized and 28 deaths have occurred.

Additional information about hepatitis A and the outbreaks in Michigan can be found at:

<http://michigan.gov/hepatitisaoutbreak>

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