

# NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release: August 19, 2020

## HEALTH UNIT HOLDING HEPATITIS A VACCINE CLINICS TO HELP COMBAT THE RISE IN CASES

ALMAGUIN HIGHLANDS, ON- The North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit (Health Unit), is seeing an increase in the number of cases of Hepatitis A in the South River, Sundridge and Burk's Falls areas. Hepatitis A is a virus that affects the liver. Usually spread by eating or drinking something contaminated with the feces of someone with the virus. A partner with Hepatitis A can spread the virus through sexual activities or through sharing drug use equipment.

At this time, there is no identified link between the cases of Hepatitis A in the area. Individuals are encouraged to protect themselves through good hand hygiene after using the bathroom, changing diapers, handling animals and before preparing or eating food. Individuals are also encouraged to be vaccinated.

“Vaccination is the best way to prevent the infection,” explain Elizabeth Mete, Temporary Manager, Vaccine Preventable Diseases Program. “As a result the Health Unit will be holding two (2) vaccine clinics, where individuals can receive one (1) dose of the vaccine for free. Individuals are also encouraged to call the Health Unit at 1-800-563-2808 ext. 5252, to determine if they are at risk or to check their vaccine record.”

### Hepatitis A clinics:

#### South River

Wednesday Aug. 26, 2020

3 p.m. – 6 p.m.

South River Arena

1 Lincoln Ave. South River

#### Burk's Falls

Monday Aug. 31, 2020

3 p.m. – 6 p.m.

Health Unit Burk's Falls Office

17 Copeland St. Burk's Falls

Book an appointment to reduce the wait-time at the clinic, however, walk-ins will be welcome. 1-800-563-2808 ext. 5252. COVID-19 safety protocols will be in place.

## Quick Facts

### Symptoms:

- Sudden onset of fever, loss of appetite, nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain, dark urine, clay-coloured stool, itchiness, tiredness and generally not feeling well. Usually followed by jaundice (yellowing of the skin and eyes) for adults.
- Illness varies from mild, lasting one (1) to two (2) weeks, to severe, lasting several months.

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