



Thousands potentially exposed to Hepatitis A virus at Calgary McDonald's



You can pass the virus on without showing symptoms for up to 30 days. A 2005 food-handler linked outbreak in Texas resulted in 17 patrons becoming ill.



Diners at the fast-food outlet from Oct. 1 to Oct. 23 may have been exposed to virus that can cause liver disease

Thousands of Calgarians are at risk of contracting hepatitis A after a food-handler at a McDonald's tested positive for the disease. A sign posted at one door said the eatery was closed, and would remain so until the "nuisance has been removed or corrected." Dr. Judy MacDonald, the health region's deputy medical officer of

health was quoted as saying **"There are potentially thousands of people that would have been at that restaurant over that period of time."**

A shot to prevent infection is available to anyone and can be effective for patrons who ate at the location less than 14 days ago. It is expected that thousands will line-up for the clinic. Food handlers can also receive Hepatitis A virus vaccination to protect themselves from infection.

- Handwashing can reduce the chance of passing on Hepatitis A to patrons.
- Don't work when ill to reduce the chance of passing on foodborne bugs.
- Hepatitis A can be transferred by dirty hands to any food.