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To: [Mark Salley - CDPHE](mailto:Mark.Salley@CDPHE)
Subject: CDPHE news: Colorado confirms 12 suspected hepatitis A cases associated with Townsend Farms Organic Antioxidant Blend frozen berries
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Colorado confirms 12 suspected hepatitis A cases associated with Townsend Farms Organic Antioxidant Blend frozen berries

DENVER – The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment continues to work with the CDC and FDA to investigate an outbreak of hepatitis A cases believed to be associated with a froze berry and pomegranate mix purchased in Colorado from Costco stores.

The CDC has reported 49 people who are ill with acute hepatitis A that may be linked with consumption of the contaminated product. Colorado has 12 cases under investigation from eight counties: Adams, Arapahoe, Boulder, Clear Creek, Douglas, Eagle, El Paso and Jefferson. Other states reporting cases are Arizona, California, Hawaii, New Mexico, Nevada and Utah.

Townsend Farms has issued a voluntary [recall](#) of its Organic Antioxidant Blend, 3-pound bag and UPC 0 78414 404448. This blend includes cherries, blueberries, pomegranate seeds, raspberries and strawberries.

The state health department is asking people to check their freezers. If you have the product, dispose of it. Do not eat it. Even if some of the product has been eaten without anyone in your home becoming ill, the rest of the product should be discarded.

The first people became ill on April 29 and the most recent on May 24. On average, it takes 30 days to become ill with hepatitis A after eating contaminated food.

The risk of contracting hepatitis A from eating this berry and pomegranate mix is low. However, if you have eaten any Townsend Farms Organic Antioxidant Blend frozen berry and pomegranate mix during the past 14 days, contact your medical provider for an immunization. If you do not have a medical provider, contact your [local health department](#).

The hepatitis A vaccine can prevent infection if given within 14 days of exposure. Some people should receive immune globulin instead of the hepatitis A vaccine. If you ate this berry and pomegranate mix within the past 14 days, please discuss with your doctor whether you should receive the hepatitis A vaccine or immune globulin. If you have received hepatitis A vaccine in the past, you do not need to be revaccinated.

If it has been more than 14 days since you have eaten this berry mix, the vaccine won't be effective preventing infection. Please monitor for symptoms and contact your physician if you become ill.

Early signs of hepatitis A appear two to six weeks after exposure. Symptoms commonly include mild fever, loss of appetite, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, fatigue, pain in the upper right side of the abdomen, dark urine and jaundice (yellow eyes or skin). It is very important if you have these symptoms that you do not go to work, especially if you work in food service, health care or child care.

The disease varies in severity, with mild cases lasting two weeks or less and more severe cases lasting four to six weeks or longer. Hepatitis A infection can be severe and can result in hospitalization. Some individuals, especially children, may not develop jaundice and may have an illness so mild it can go unnoticed. However, even mildly ill people can be highly infectious. People with symptoms suggestive of hepatitis should consult a physician immediately, even if symptoms are mild.

Hepatitis A virus is spread as a result of fecal contamination (fecal-oral route) and may be spread from person to person through close contact or food handling. The virus is commonly spread by contaminated food or beverages. People are at increased risk of acquiring hepatitis A when they have been in close contact with an infected person.

For more information, please see the CDC website at <http://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/Outbreaks/2013/A1b-03-31/advice-consumers.html> or call COHelp at 1-877-462-2911.