



City and County of San Francisco
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PUBLIC HEALTH NOTICE: Food Handler in San Francisco Diagnosed with Hepatitis A

Individuals who ate or drank at the Comstock Saloon in San Francisco on December 12th through 15th, or 19th, 2013 may have been exposed to Hepatitis A

San Francisco, CA – A food handler at the Comstock Saloon (155 Columbus Avenue) in North Beach in San Francisco has been diagnosed with Hepatitis A infection. Restaurant patrons who ate or drank at the restaurant on December 12, 13, 14, 15, or 19, 2013, may have been exposed. Patrons who ate or drank at the restaurant after December 19 are not at risk.

“The worker is currently restricted from work until he or she is no longer contagious. The risk of a restaurant patron having been infected is extremely low, but we need the medical community and restaurant patrons to be aware of the possibility of contracting this disease,” said Dr. Tomás Aragón, MD, Health Officer for the City & County of San Francisco. There have been no cases of Hepatitis A linked to this food handler.

Advice for individuals who ate or drank at the Comstock Saloon on the above dates:

- Individuals who are already immune to Hepatitis A due to vaccination or having had the disease are protected and do not need treatment.
- Individuals who are not immune to Hepatitis A should consult their medical provider. The Hepatitis A vaccine may be able to protect individuals vaccinated within 14 days of the date of potential exposure.

People are at risk for Hepatitis A if they eat food that has been handled by someone who is infected. Early signs of Hepatitis A appear from two to six weeks after exposure. Symptoms commonly include mild fever, loss of appetite, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, fatigue, right upper abdominal pain, dark urine and jaundice (yellowing of the skin and whites of the eyes).

The risk of developing Hepatitis A from this type of exposure is low and those who contract the disease usually recover completely, but sometimes Hepatitis A can lead to hospitalization and severe illness. It is very important that anyone with symptoms not go to work, especially if in food service, health care or child care, and consult their medical provider.

San Francisco residents who ate or drank at the Comstock Saloon on the above dates should contact their medical provider, or call 311 (from within the 415 area code) or (415) 701-2311 for more information. Residents of other counties or states should contact their local health department for assistance.

General information about Hepatitis A is available at the Communicable Disease Control and Prevention website <http://www.sfcddcp.org/hepatitisa.html> and from the CDC <http://www.cdc.gov/Hepatitis/A/index.htm>.

The mission of the San Francisco Department of Public Health is to protect and promote the health of all San Franciscans.

We shall ~ Assess and research the health of the community ~ Develop and enforce health policy ~ Prevent disease and injury ~
~ Educate the public and train health care providers ~ Provide quality, comprehensive, culturally-proficient health services ~ Ensure equal access to all ~

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