

Media Release

SA Health

Tuesday 17 February 2015

HEPATITIS A ADVICE

SA Health is asking people to be on the lookout for symptoms of hepatitis A following multiple cases reported interstate, linked to frozen mixed berries.

To date there have not been any reported cases of hepatitis A in South Australia linked to the frozen berry products.

Professor Paddy Phillips, SA Health's Chief Medical Officer, said people should be aware of the symptoms of hepatitis A and seek medical attention if they develop.

"There are a lot of people out there who have eaten the frozen berry products and are now wondering what they should do next," Professor Phillips said.

"Hepatitis A cannot be tested for until symptoms develop, which can take between 15 to 50 days.

"At this stage we're just asking people to be aware of what the symptoms are and to see their doctor if they develop, particularly if they have eaten frozen berries in the last two months.

"Symptoms of hepatitis A include abdominal pain, nausea, fever and chills and yellow skin or eyes.

"We are not recommending people get a preventative vaccination as the risk of contamination appears to be fairly low."

Hepatitis A is a viral infection of the liver which is spread when people eat or drink food or water that is contaminated by faecal matter containing the virus.

Nine adults have so far been diagnosed as part of this outbreak - three in Victoria, four in Queensland and two in New South Wales. There have been no cases in South Australia.

As a precaution, the following products are being recalled from stores and the public is advised that if they have them at home they should throw them out or return to the place of purchase for a full refund.

Nanna's Mixed Berries – 1kg, up to and including best before 22/11/16

Nanna's Raspberries – 1kg, up to and including best before 22/11/16

Creative Gourmet Mixed Berries – 300g, up to and including best before 10/12/17

Creative Gourmet Mixed Berries – 500g, up to and including best before 06/10/17

An investigation by all health agencies is underway, but at this early stage it is not clear how many people may be affected.

For more information about the products involved visit

www.foodstandards.gov.au/industry/foodrecalls.

For more information

Call the SA Health Media Line

Telephone: 08 8226 6488



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