



Emerging and Reemerging Infectious Diseases, Region of the Americas

Vol. 1, No. 20—19 November 2003

Hepatitis A Outbreak in the United States

USA, 15 November 2003: The Food and Drug Administration of the United States (FDA) is warning the public that several of the recent Hepatitis A outbreaks have been associated with the consumption of raw or semi-cooked green onions (scallions). The outbreaks associated with this vegetable being served in restaurants occurred in Tennessee, North Carolina, and Georgia last September.

Another outbreak during late October and early November of this year occurred among customers at a restaurant in Pennsylvania, though its source has not been established. Pennsylvania health authorities, the CDC, and the FDA are investigating whether a specific food is associated with the Pennsylvania outbreak and, if so, its source. More than 500 cases have been reported to the Pennsylvania Department of Health.

Sources

- [*FDA Talk Paper: Consumers Advised That Recent Hepatitis A Outbreaks Have Been Associated With Green Onions*](#). Food and Drug Administration of the United States (FDA).
- [*Response by Dr. Gerberding made during CDC News Conference Transcript: Update on Current Influenza Season*](#), *op. cit.* CDC.