McDonald’s Faces Probe for Potentially Exacerbating Hepatitis A Outbreak in Kentucky

Madison County health officials say one of the chain’s employees could have spread the virus to customers this spring.

April 12, 2018 By Casey Halter

Local health officials are investigating a McDonald’s franchise in Kentucky for potentially spreading hepatitis A virus (HAV) to its customers, Bloomberg reports.

According to the Madison County Health Department, a food handler working at a McDonald’s restaurant in Berea, south Lexington recently tested positive for hepatitis A. Health officials are warning locals who ate there on March 23 that they might have been exposed to the virus and should watch for signs and symptoms of infection from April 7 to May 12.

McDonald’s is fully cooperating with local and state agencies on the public health investigation, say local authorities. However, the news sent the chain’s shares to session lows earlier this week.

This latest scare comes as the state fights an HAV outbreak linked to homelessness, injection drug use and low vaccination rates that started early this year. HAV outbreaks are currently affecting California, Utah and Colorado as well.

To learn more about hepatitis A and where it’s spreading, click here.

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