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CDC HEALTH ADVISORY

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**Multi-state, Foodborne Hepatitis A Outbreak – Tennessee, Georgia,
September 2003**

On September 18, the Knox County (Tennessee) Health Department (KCHD) alerted EpiX that four cases of hepatitis A had occurred in food handlers employed at the O'Charley's Restaurant. At this time there are at least 57 cases of hepatitis A associated with O'Charley's Restaurants in Tennessee, and several others associated with O'Charley's Restaurants in Georgia and potentially in at least one additional state. Most cases identified to date have onset dates clustered around early to mid-September. An investigation to determine the source of the outbreak is underway. Cases of hepatitis A should be interviewed regarding exposure to O'Charley's Restaurants. O'Charley's is a regional chain with restaurants located in Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, North Carolina, Ohio, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, and West Virginia. Cases of hepatitis A associated with this outbreak should be reported to CDC directly and to state or local health departments; available serum should be frozen and saved for molecular testing at CDC. Please call Dr. Joe Amon at CDC (404)371-5461 to report cases and arrange shipment of serum.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) protects people's health and safety by preventing and controlling diseases and injuries; enhances health decisions by providing credible information on critical health issues; and promotes healthy living through strong partnerships with local, national and international organizations.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES