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Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Multistate Hepatitis A Outbreak: Linked to frozen berry mix

Sutter Creek, CA - The California Department of Public Health released a warning Friday afternoon not to eat Townsend Farms Organic Antioxidant Blend of frozen berries sold through Costco stores as they may be linked to a multistate outbreak of hepatitis A. As of June 3, at least 34 cases are being investigated nationwide with seven confirmed illnesses linked to the product in California. No cases have been reported in Amador County.

"Anyone who has consumed this specific product in the last 14 days should contact their medical provider to discuss recommended hepatitis A prevention and treatment options," advises Dr. Bob Hartmann, Amador County Health Officer. "Those who have purchased this product should discard it if still in their home."

Costco locations in Folsom, Lodi and Stockton all stocked and sold this product. Costco has now removed this product from stores.

Symptoms of hepatitis A include fever, fatigue, loss of appetite, nausea, vomiting, stomach pain, dark urine, clay-colored bowel movements, joint pain and jaundice -- a yellowing of the skin or eyes. Symptoms develop two to six weeks after consuming contaminated food or drink and can last from one week to several months.

It is important to be diagnosed promptly to ensure that treatment is effective. A vaccine may be received within 2 weeks of exposure in order to reduce or prevent illness. Your health care provider is the best resource to verify vaccination status.

Amador County Public Health is recommending if people have symptoms that they do not go to work, especially if they work in food service, health care or child care. For more details see the CDPH fact sheet at www.cdph.ca.gov/HealthInfo/discond/Documents/CDCHepAGeneralFactSheet.pdf.

For more information on hepatitis A, visit www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/Outbreaks/2013/A1b-03-31/advice-consumers.html or contact Amador County Public Health at 223-6407.

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