



Paul R. LePage, Governor

Ricker Hamilton, Acting Commissioner

Maine Department of Health and Human Services
Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention
11 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333-0011
Phone: 1 (800) 821-5821 / Fax: (207) 287-7443

Maine Health Alert Network (HAN) System

PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY

To: Hospitals, Maine EMS, County EMAs, CDC Internal
From: Dr. Siiri Bennett, State Epidemiologist
Subject: Amnesic Shellfish Poisoning Advisory
Date / Time: Friday, September 15, 2017 at 6:30pm
Pages: 2
Priority: **High**
Message ID: 2017PHADV016

Abstract:

Maine Department of Marine Resources (DMR) has recently closed areas of the Maine coast for harvesting due to the increased risk of contamination by naturally occurring marine biotoxin which may cause amnesic shellfish poisoning in individuals who consumed contaminated seafood harvested from this closed area. Maine DMR is in the process of recalling mussels harvested from Frenchman Bay. Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention (Maine CDC) is asking medical providers across the state to monitor for individuals who present with symptoms consistent with amnesic shellfish poisoning. Shellfish poisoning is reportable in Maine. Providers with suspected cases should report them to Maine CDC at 1-800-821-5821. Northern New England Poison Center should also be consulted at 1-800-222-1222 for clinical assistance and toxicosurveillance purposes.

Amnesic Shellfish Poisoning Advisory

Maine Department of Marine Resources (DMR) has recently closed areas of the Maine coast for harvesting due to the increased risk of contamination by naturally occurring marine biotoxin which may cause amnesic shellfish poisoning in individuals who consumed contaminated seafood harvested from this closed area. Maine DMR is in the process of recalling mussels harvested from Frenchman Bay. Please read the following DMR release: <http://www.maine.gov/dmr/news-details.html?id=766561> for specific information. Amnesic shellfish poisoning is caused only by consuming contaminated seafood.

Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention (Maine CDC) is asking medical providers across the state to monitor for individuals who present with symptoms consistent with amnesic shellfish poisoning. Shellfish poisoning is reportable in Maine. Providers with suspected cases should report them to Maine CDC at 1-800-821-5821. Northern New England Poison Center should also be consulted at 1-800-222-1222 for clinical assistance and toxicosurveillance purposes.

Symptoms: Shellfish, such as mussels, can accumulate these toxins, making people who eat them sick with various symptoms including the following: vomiting and diarrhea within 24 hours of eating, dizziness, headache, disorientation, and short-term memory loss. Seizures, weakness, paralysis, and death can occur in severe cases.

Recommendations: Individuals should avoid eating contaminated seafood. Individuals who develop symptoms are advised to immediately visit a health care provider for assessment and treatment. Cooking or freezing does not kill the toxin. Check for advisories and closures by visiting DMR closure website or calling the DMR Biotoxin and Shellfish Sanitation Hotline: 1-800-232-4733 or 207-624-7727.

Treatment: There is no specific treatment for amnesic shellfish poisoning, only supportive care of symptoms. There is no vaccine for this disease. Northern New England Poison Center can be consulted for clinical assistance.

Reporting: Health care providers should report all suspected cases of shellfish poisoning to Maine CDC at 1-800-821-5821 immediately on recognition or strong suspicion of disease. Northern New England Poison Center (1-800-222-1222) should also be consulted for clinical assistance and toxicosurveillance purposes.

For More Information: Please call the Maine CDC 24/7 disease reporting and consultation line at 1-800-821-5821 and see additional resources below.

Additional Resources:

- Maine Biotoxin and Shellfish Sanitation Hotline: 1-800-232-4733 or 207-624-7727
- Maine Department of Marine Resources closure information: <http://www.maine.gov/dmr/shellfish-sanitation-management/closures/psp.html>
- Federal CDC Harmful Algal Bloom (HAB)-Associated Illness: <http://www.cdc.gov/habs/illness-symptoms-marine.html>