Control of hepatitis A (outbreak) in Latvia

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- Hepatitis A is a disease under mandatory notification in Latvia

- Cases of hepatitis A are notified by health care practitioners including general practitioners and clinical working in hospitals as well as by laboratories

- All notified hepatitis A cases are subject to epidemiological investigation. Investigation performed by epidemiologists of regional units of the Center for Disease Prevention and Control of Latvia (CDPC)
Cases of hepatitis A, Latvia, 1951-2015
Number of reported cases of hepatitis A by month of onset, Latvia, November 2007–December 2009
Distribution of cases of hepatitis A in Latvia, 2008-2009, by age
Incidence rate of hepatitis A, by age and gender, in Latvia, 2008-2009
Causes of outbreak

✓ The increased susceptibility of the population, especially among young people

And

✓ The increased virus circulation in the community
Control measures (1)

- All notified hepatitis A cases are subject to epidemiological investigation
  - Epidemiologists of regional units:
    ✓ Interview patients or their relatives
    ✓ Visit places of work or study of the patients (kindergartens, schools, food enterprises, etc.)
    ✓ Collect epidemiological information
    ✓ Organise control measures as medical observation
Control measures (2)

- Information on preventive measures against hepatitis A is regularly disseminated via the mass media.
- Recommendations for inhabitants, food handlers, and staff of educational establishments have been prepared, distributed and also available on the CDPC website (http://www.spkc.gov.lv/ieteikumi-skolam-un-bernu-darziem/700/; http://www.spkc.gov.lv/infekcijas-slimibas/)
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✓ A special poster to stress the importance of hand washing has been developed and distributed to schools, kindergartens etc.
Control measures (3)

- Communication with School boards, Health Inspectorate, Food and Veterinary Service, schools and other establishments is taking place to disseminate information and recommendations on prevention of hepatitis A

- Vaccination against hepatitis A is recommended to risk groups and contacts
THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

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