HEPATITIS A

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for hepatitis A. This includes all restaurants, school kitchens, food carts and caterers anywhere in Warren County.

After Nov. 20, new food service employees must be vaccinated within two weeks of being hired.

Walters said employers will be required to track the vaccination status of their employees. Those records will be inspected as part of the normal health inspections that the health department conducts at food service facilities.

The county commission's order makes it a legal mandate for food handlers to comply with the vaccination directives. If they don't, they could be subject to court action, according to the order.

There are a number of local health care providers that offer hepatitis A vaccinations, including the county health department, Walters said.

"We encourage those seeking hepatitis A vaccinations to call around to find the best option for them and to determine if they meet any eligibility requirements that may exist," she added. Walters said many local pharmacies or other providers can bill insurance and offer vaccinations directly at various times of the day without appointments.

As far as paying for the vaccinations, Walters said that is left to individuals and their employers.

Anyone with questions about the new requirements can call the Warren County Health Department at 636-456-7474.