

2013-04-07-021 Cryptosporidiosis - Australia (02): (VI)

To: (01) Public health and One Health Initiative; (07) Zoonoses, general;

CRYPTOSPORIDIOSIS - AUSTRALIA (02): (VICTORIA)

A ProMED-mail post

Date: Wed 3 Apr 2013

Source: Bendigo Advertiser [edited]

<<http://www.bendigoadvertiser.com.au/story/1404912/calls-for-sanitation-after-gastro-outbreak/?cs=80>>

Bendigo residents are being reminded about the importance of good personal hygiene after a statewide spike in gastroenteritis cases. The Department of Health has confirmed an increase in the number of cases of gastro caused by the cryptosporidium parasite, which is found in the faeces of humans, cattle, and other animals.

There have now been 458 cases of cryptosporidiosis notified to the department this year [2013], compared to 88 for the same period last year. The Department of Health did not have a region by region breakdown of the figures but Bendigo Health confirmed a central Victorian [resident or locality?] was recently affected by a small gastro outbreak.

Bendigo Health's infection control manager Jane Hellsten said the best way to prevent highly contagious gastro was through good personal hygiene. "Hand hygiene, hand hygiene, hand hygiene -- I can't emphasize that enough," she said. "It's about cleaning and washing your hands often and even carrying alcohol hand rubs when you're out and about. They're good to use prior to eating or when you're stuck out and about with nowhere to wash your hands. Gastro is basically spread on hands -- dirty hands handling commonly touched items like door knobs and handles -- so hand hygiene is all important." Ms Hellsten said people experiencing gastro symptoms should avoid contact with other people. "People sick with it should stay home," she said. "Take yourself out of circulation for a while."

Victoria's Chief Health Officer Dr Rosemary Lester said there was a link between the increase in notifications and the recent spate of hot weather, which saw large numbers of people seek relief at their local swimming pools. "The condition is caused by swallowing the parasite, with symptoms including watery diarrhoea, stomach cramps, and vomiting," Dr Lester said.

[Byline: Hannah Knight]

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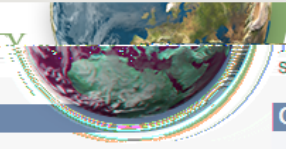
<promed@promedmail.org>

[When ProMED-mail last reported on this outbreak on 9 Mar 2013, there were 155 registered cases. It is possible that the outbreak is cases by transmission in swimming pools alone, but only a case-control study can verify that. The *Cryptosporidium* parasite has a reduced sensitivity to chlorine and strict hygiene in swimming pools is necessary to prevent and limit transmission.

Transmission in swimming pools is well known (Paterson J & Goldthorpe I. Managing a cluster of cryptosporidiosis associated with a public swimming pool. NSW Public Health Bull. 2006;17:80 <<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/17036085?ordinalpos=6&itool=EntrezSystem2.PEntrez.Pubmed.ResultsPanel.Pubmed.DefaultReportPanel.Pubmed.RVDocSum>>.

Studies have implicated transmission from zoonotic reservoirs (Ng J et al. Evidence supporting zoonotic transmission of *Cryptosporidium* in rural New South Wales. Exp Parasitol. 2008;119:192-5 <<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/18343369?ordinalpos=4&itool=EntrezSystem2.PEntrez.Pubmed.ResultsPanel.Pubmed.DefaultReportPanel.Pubmed.RVDocSum>>.

- Mod.EP]



[_Cryptosporidium_ life cycle:

<http://www.dpd.cdc.gov/dpdx/images/ParasiteImages/A-F/Cryptosporidiosis/Cryptosporidium_LifeCycle.gif>

- Mod.JW

A HealthMap/ProMED-mail map can be accessed at:

<http://healthmap.org/r/6de*>.]

[see also:

Cryptosporidiosis - Australia: (VI) outbreak linked to pools

20130309.1578629

2012

Cryptosporidiosis - Australia (02): (QL) background 20120206.1034446 Cryptosporidiosis - Australia

(QL) 20120205.1033342

2009

Cryptosporidiosis - Australia (02): (NS) 20090401.1259 Cryptosporidiosis - Australia (NS)

20090301.0847

2007

Cryptosporidiosis - Australia (SA) (02): comments 20070324.1029 Cryptosporidiosis - Australia (SA):

corr. 20070321.0995 Cryptosporidiosis - Australia (SA) 20070321.0992

2005

Cryptosporidiosis, swimming pools - Australia (NSW) 20050617.1710

1998

Cryptosporidiosis - Australia (New South Wales) (03) 19980418.0714 Cryptosporidiosis - Australia

(Victoria) (02) 19980404.0623]
