

Cryptosporidiosis Associated with a Community Aquatic Center

August

Goodhue County

Routine surveillance interviews of two laboratory-confirmed *Cryptosporidium* cases conducted by the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) on August 31, 2012 revealed that both cases had gone swimming at an aquatic center in Red Wing in the 2 weeks prior to illness onset. Sanitarians from MDH Food, Pools, and Lodging Services (FPLS) were contacted on August 31, and an outbreak investigation was initiated.

Cases of cryptosporidiosis that were identified through routine surveillance were interviewed to determine if they had exposure to the aquatic center. A case was defined as an aquatic center user who subsequently developed either a laboratory-confirmed *Cryptosporidium* infection or diarrhea (≥ 3 loose stools in a 24-hour period) or vomiting lasting 3 or more days, with illness onset 2 to 14 days following aquatic center exposure.

The aquatic center had closed for the season the last week of August. An MDH sanitarian contacted the aquatic center pool operator to determine if the aquatic center had received any reports of illness or if any fecal incidents or mechanical issues had occurred in early August.

Only the original two cases detected through routine surveillance were identified. Both cases had *Cryptosporidium parvum* subtype BGP3 identified in a stool sample.

Both cases reported diarrhea and cramps. One (50%) of the two cases also reported vomiting, fever, and weight loss. Reported onset dates were August 6 and 13. The median incubation period could not be calculated, as one case reported multiple swim dates and the other case was unsure of the exact swim date prior to illness. The median duration of illness was 13.5 days (range, 12 to 15 days). One case was hospitalized for 3 days for his illness.

Review of pool records indicated that there had been a vomiting accident in the aquatic center on August 1 and a fecal accident on August 6. Despite having a fecal response protocol, limited information on the chlorine concentration and the length of superchlorination time was documented.

This was an outbreak of cryptosporidiosis associated with swimming at an aquatic center. Although the original source of contamination was not identified, an infectious aquatic center user most likely introduced the parasite into the aquatic center. Since the outbreak was not detected until after the aquatic center was closed for the season, an extensive investigation was not conducted.