Cowfish reopens Tuesday after norovirus

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The Cowfish(Photo: WCNC)

CHARLOTTE, N.C. -- A popular SouthPark restaurant reopens its doors for lunch on Tuesday after several workers and patrons became sick over a week ago.

The Cowfish voluntarily closed. About 50 people got sick, and the health department has confirmed that norovirus is the cause. The working theory is an employee or customer had the virus and spread it, said Mecklenburg County Medical Director Dr. Stephen Keener. They original closed the doors to the restaurant as a precaution. The second time they closed, they brought in professionals to clean. Something they didn't do the first time. NBC Charlotte pulled up the most recent health inspection report. The restaurant was cited for hands not being clean and properly washed.

The owner of the restaurant calls this a regrettable situation and says, 'We also will continue to work with health officials to be sure we are doing everything possible to protect the health and safety of our guests and employees.' The health department says management has been proactive. In a statement Monday, Cowfish said:

The Cowfish is pleased to announce that the restaurant plans to reopen Tuesday, June 16. We will be open for our regular hours of operation from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m.

We appreciate the work of the Mecklenburg County Health Department in confirming a virus as the source of the recent outbreak that affected some of our guests and employees.

Over the past week, acting in consultation with the county as well as state health experts, we have taken extraordinary measures to ensure the health and safety of our guests and employees going forward, including multiple professional cleanings and closing for five days to eliminate all potential sources of the outbreak.

The Cowfish holds itself to the highest standards in every aspect of our operation, from the quality of our food and service to the consistently high marks we receive on health inspections – including top grades of A and scores averaging 96.1 out of 100 on all inspections dating back to September 2013.

We appreciate the support of our loyal customers and staff through this challenging time and look forward to welcoming guests to The Cowfish once again.

SOURCE: http://www.wcnc.com/story/news/local/2015/06/15/cowfish-to-reopen-today-after-norovirus-outbreak/71241572/