

Norovirus outbreak source confirmed; specific cause of illness still unknown

JOSHUA VAIL

Tribune reporter

It has been confirmed by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment that the source of the norovirus outbreak in the Neosho County area last week was Meals on Wheels in southeast Kansas.

KDHE Health Programs Public Information Officer Aimee Rosenow said the numbers of confirmed ill have not changed since Friday when there were 29 confirmed ill.

Rosenow said epidemiology staff are still working on the case to narrow down the source of infection.

“Sometimes it’s very difficult because people are eating pretty much the same thing,” she said.

A Jan. 8 food safety inspection of the Chanute Senior Services of SEK facility found problems with hand washing and properly arranging food in coolers to avoid cross-contamination. Samples were also taken of all food from the batch delivered Jan. 6.

A followup inspection is scheduled for Saturday, Jan. 18.

SOURCE: http://www.chanute.com/news/article_95292068-9aba-11e4-b09e-af4bbcd7ec02.html?mode=jqm