

August 3, 2018

Norovirus-type Illness Reports from People Swimming at Horseshoe Lake County Park—Risk of Secondary Infections

Actions Requested

- **Tell patients exhibiting the above symptoms to stay home from all activities for at least 48 hours after symptoms resolve.** This is due to the potential of the pathogen being shed in the stool after symptoms resolve.
- **Emphasize the importance of performing hand hygiene with soap and water and cleaning surfaces in the home** where someone is sick with norovirus-type illness.
- **Be aware** that secondary infections may start to develop, especially in family members caring for the ill. These individuals may not have had exposure to the lake, but only contact with an individual who did.
- **Consider sending clinical specimens** of patients who report having diarrhea, vomiting, and/or stomach cramps after swimming at Horseshoe Lake County Park. This will assist us in identifying the causative agent.
- **Encourage patients** who visited Horseshoe Lake County Park or had contact with an ill visitor to the lake since Saturday, July 28 who became ill with diarrhea, vomiting, and/or stomach cramps to call us at (360) 728-2205 to report their symptoms.

For questions, please contact our Communicable Disease staff at (360) 728-2235.

Background

The Kitsap Public Health District and Kitsap County Parks and Recreation Department have closed Horseshoe Lake County Park until further notice while multiple reports of a norovirus-type illness are investigated. So far, we are investigating approximately 120 reported illnesses. Because norovirus is extremely contagious, we are concerned about the development of an outbreak of secondary cases, posing ongoing risks to the community at large. We are requesting the assistance of healthcare providers in advising ill swimmers to take precautions to avoid spreading the infection, and to report secondary cases to the Kitsap Public Health District.

The Kitsap Public Health District has received a number of reports of people experiencing gastrointestinal illnesses after swimming at Horseshoe Lake County Park over the weekend of July 28-29, 2018. Although there is currently no laboratory confirmation of a specific virus or bacteria responsible for the illnesses, symptoms are consistent with norovirus infection. The park has been closed until further notice as a precautionary measure to protect the public and prevent any additional illnesses.

People who visited Horseshoe Lake County Park since Saturday, July 28 and who become ill with diarrhea, vomiting, and/or stomach cramps are asked to call the Health District at 360-728-2205 to report their illness, the number of people affected, and which day(s) they were at the park. People may also report their illness symptoms online at <http://kitsappublichealth.org/about/health-concern.php>.

Resources

WA DOH Recreational Water Illnesses:

<https://www.doh.wa.gov/YouandYourFamily/IllnessandDisease/RecreationalWaterIllnesses>