



345 6th Street, Suite 300
Bremerton, WA 98337
kitsappublichealth.org

Media Release

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CONTACT: Jim Zimny
360-337-5623
jim.zimny@kitsappublichealth.org

Horseshoe Lake County Park Temporarily Closed *Stomach Illness Reports Prompt Investigation*

BREMERTON, WA— The Kitsap Public Health District and Kitsap County Parks and Recreation Department have temporarily closed Horseshoe Lake County Park until further notice while they investigate multiple reports of a norovirus-type illness outbreak.

The Health District and Kitsap County Parks & Recreation Department have received more than 20 reports so far of people experiencing diarrhea, vomiting, and stomach cramps starting about 24 – 48 hours after swimming at Horseshoe Lake County Park. Although there is no laboratory confirmation of a specific virus or bacteria responsible for the illnesses at this time, Public Health and Kitsap County are issuing the temporary closure as a precautionary measure while they investigate and to protect the public and prevent any additional illnesses.

People who visited Horseshoe Lake County Park between Thursday, July 10 and Sunday, July 13, and who become ill with diarrhea, vomiting, and/or stomach cramps are asked to call the Health District at 360-337-5623 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>.

The County Park appears to be the only affected area on Horseshoe Lake at this time.

If the symptoms appear severe or do not improve within 24 hours, people should visit their primary care provider as soon as possible. In most instances symptoms will improve one to two days after onset.

Diligent and frequent hand-washing with warm water and soap will help prevent spread of diarrheal illnesses, as well as taking extra care to clean and disinfect sinks and toilets. The public is also reminded that people who are ill or in diapers should not go swimming or into the water to prevent the spread of disease-causing organisms.

Public Health and Kitsap County will be collecting additional water samples for laboratory testing today, and completing a thorough cleaning of the restrooms at the park.

More information will be released as soon as it is available.

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