
To:	General Practices, Pharmacists, After-Hours Centres and Emergency Departments in the greater Wellington and Wairarapa regions
From:	Dr Jill McKenzie, Medical Officer of Health
Date:	15 February 2018
Title:	Public Health Alert: Cryptosporidiosis Cases Associated with Raumati Splash Pad

Please distribute the following information to relevant staff in your organisation.

If you would like to receive this by email please advise RPH of your email on rph@huttvalleydhb.org.nz.

All public health alerts are available at www.rph.org.nz (health professionals – public health alerts)

Cryptosporidiosis and Swimming Facilities

Key messages:

- **There have been a number of cryptosporidiosis cases associated with use of swimming facilities, especially the splash pad in Raumati**
- **To prevent further spread please remind patients that swimming facilities, including splash pads, should not be used while symptomatic with diarrhoea and for 2 weeks following the last symptom**

We would like to advise you of an increase in the number of cryptosporidiosis cases that have been notified to Regional Public Health over the last 2 weeks. Eleven cases to date are confirmed to have been exposed to the Raumati splash pad during their incubation period (usually 7 days, range 1-12 days). The cases are predominantly children using the facility between 20-23 January. The splash pad closed for cleaning on 9 February.

Please be aware of potential cases that may have been exposed to this facility or other swimming facilities. Cryptosporidium is a notifiable disease. Treatment is usually symptomatic relief only.

Public swimming pool use by recently infected people facilitates circulation of the illness. We are working with all pools in the region to ensure good systems are in place. This includes increasing the messaging about avoiding swimming (including the use of splash pads) during the period of greatest infectiousness i.e. during the illness and for 2 weeks after the symptoms stop.

Please remind patients not to swim in public swimming pools or splash pads for two weeks after being ill with diarrhoea, and to be very vigilant about hand washing and preparing food when anyone in the house has a diarrhoeal illness. Cryptosporidiosis is very easily passed on person to person in a household.

PUBLIC HEALTH ALERT

15 February 2018 - Page 2 of 2

A factsheet on cryptosporidiosis and information regarding precautions prior to entering a swimming pool, is available at:

<http://www.rph.org.nz/publichealthtopics/recreationalwater/resources>

Or

<http://www.rph.org.nz/public-health-topics/recreational-water/safe-swimming.pdf>