

WATER PARKS AND POOLS CAN BE SOURCE OF ILLNESSES

VOMIT AND POOP CAN SPREAD BACTERIA, VIRUSES AND PARASITES TO SWIMMERS

Keep the poop out of the pool



INTERNATIONAL FOOD SAFETY NETWORK INFOSHEET

MAY 30, 2008

TWO RECENT RECREATIONAL WATER OUTBREAKS LINKED TO POOP IN THE WATER

Utah: Cryptosporidium in public pools

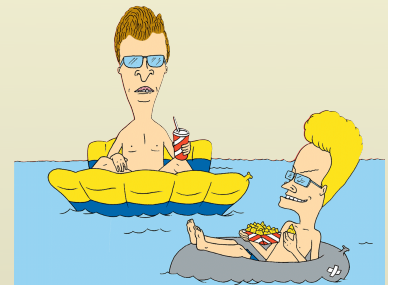
Cryptosporidia, a parasite passed through feces that can survive in chlorinated water, was linked to water parks in Utah in 2007. From June to December of 2007, the Utah Department of Health confirmed 1,902 cases; the state normally sees around 30 annually. Many cases were found in clusters, leading the Department of Health to believe that the cases were related to public swimming areas. There were several other cryptosporidium outbreaks across the U.S. midwest in 2007.

New York: Norovirus at Great Escape Lodge

Norovirus, a virus also transmitted through feces, was the cause of an outbreak reported at Great Escape Lodge in Queensbury New York in March 2008. Children who had visited the park became ill with diarrhea, nausea and abdominal cramps. A total of 435 cases were associated with this outbreak.

What you can do to reduce the risk of spreading recreational water illness:

- Refrain from swimming when you or your child have diarrhea; dirty diapers and babies going poop in the pool can lead to outbreaks.
- Avoid swallowing pool water or even getting it in your mouth.
- Shower before swimming and wash your hands after using the toilet or changing diapers.
- Take children on bathroom breaks or check diapers often.
- Change diapers in a bathroom, not at poolside, and thoroughly clean the diaper changing area.



FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT BEN CHAPMAN, BCHAPMAN@UOGUELPH.CA OR DOUG POWELL, DPOWELL@KSU.EDU