



Public Health
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Swim Team Members in Orange and Durham County Test Positive for Cryptosporidium

Orange and Durham County, NC (December 12, 2013) – Three swim team members from Durham and Orange Counties have tested positive for [Cryptosporidium](#) (Crypto) and an additional three have reported symptoms and are still awaiting test results.

Cryptosporidiosis is a disease caused by a parasite that can be transmitted from one swimmer to another in swimming pools. Crypto is found in the fecal matter of a person who has been infected. It can survive for a number of days, even in a properly chlorinated pool. Symptoms usually develop within 12 days of exposure and include: watery diarrhea, stomach pain and cramps, and a low fever. Other symptoms may include nausea, vomiting, and dehydration.

The Health Departments in Orange and Durham Counties are working with pool managers to implement control measures to stop the spread of this parasite. After the report of the first confirmed case last week, a number of pools in Orange and Durham Counties voluntarily took the control measure of hyperchlorinating their pools to prevent the potential spread of the disease. These measures are only effective if infected individuals do not reenter the pool for two weeks after their last diarrheal event.

In addition to working with the pool management, letters were sent to parents and coaches of the swim teams affected informing them of the illness, preventive measures they should take, and asking for compliance.

With the addition of new cases, the Health Departments in Orange and Durham Counties are asking all people who use local pools to comply with the following prevention and control measures:

1. STAY OUT OF THE POOL while you continue to have diarrhea or have had diarrhea anytime in the past two weeks
2. If you are experiencing any of the symptoms see your medical provider and ask about testing for Cryptosporidium
3. If your stool test is negative for Crypto, and you no longer have diarrhea, you may return to swimming

Failure to follow these control measures can put others at risk for serious illness. The elderly, young children, and pregnant women may develop serious illness that require hospitalization. People with weakened immune systems can experience life-threatening illness if infected with Crypto.

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