



Erie County Health Department
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Erie County Community Health Center
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Health Commissioner



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Sandusky, Ohio

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Situational Update – Illness Reports in Erie County, OH

On Monday, July 18, 2016, the Erie County Health Department (ECHD) received information regarding eleven (11) visitors staying at Kalahari Resorts, Sandusky Ohio, becoming ill with symptoms of fever, vomiting and diarrhea. At this time one (1) additional illness has been reported and several of those originally ill are no longer symptomatic. The individuals are part of group traveling for the same conference.

ECHD enteric disease team promptly met with Kalahari staff and the affected visitors. The staff conducted a thorough on-site investigation that included food preparation areas and interviews with staff. No issues were discovered that warranted any corrective action. Individual food and health histories were gathered from those in the effected group. All individuals involved in the investigation have been extremely cooperative in assisting with identification of the source of illness (if possible) and eliminating the potential for spread of the illness to others. Those individuals who have symptoms have voluntarily excluded themselves from contact with others by remaining in their hotel rooms.

Based on preliminary investigation information, those that became ill most likely acquired the illness prior to their travels and arrival in Ohio. The illness appears to be norovirus but has not been confirmed at this time. Norovirus is a common illness often found in the

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community. Samples have been collected and sent for confirmatory testing. Results are expected by Friday.

As always, it is recommended that individuals remain vigilant in proper hand hygiene.

When should you wash your hands?

- ✓ Before, during, and after preparing food
- ✓ Before eating food
- ✓ Before and after caring for someone who is sick
- ✓ Before and after treating a cut or wound
- ✓ After using the toilet
- ✓ After changing diapers or cleaning up a child who has used the toilet
- ✓ After blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing
- ✓ After touching an animal, animal feed, or animal waste
- ✓ After touching garbage

How should you wash your hands?

- ✓ Use warm running water and soap.
- ✓ Lather well for 15—20 seconds
- ✓ Rinse and turn off water with arm or paper towel.

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For additional information about this news release please contact Peter T. Schade, RS, MPH, Health Commissioner at pschade@ecghd.org, cell: 419-656-2796 or office: 419-626-5623 extension 112.

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