

Hawke's Bay District Health Board

HAVELOCK NORTH CAMPYLOBACTER OUTBREAK UPDATE

November 2016

In this latest Havelock North community update we include summaries of surveillance survey results and calls to Healthline.

We remind people that they should seek advice from their family doctor or Healthline if they are feeling unwell.

Telephone survey results

Thank you to all who participated in our telephone surveys. We really appreciate the time you took to help us gain a better picture of how the outbreak impacted on your health and wellbeing.

We can now give further insight into the overall effect on the Havelock North community following our fourth survey conducted on 27 and 28 September. These results, combined with the findings of our previous surveys, tell us that an estimated 5,530 (or 39%) of Havelock North residents were affected by gastroenteritis.

Of those:

- **64%** experienced one episode of vomiting and/or diarrhoea
- **32%** of people had a recurrence of the bug while **4%** of people experienced ongoing symptoms (as of 28 September)
- an estimated **78%** of people who had symptoms took time off work or school.

Boiling water before drinking:

- **82%** of households boiled water during the outbreak
- **30%** of households that do not normally boil drinking water have continued to do so following the lifting of the boil water notice on Saturday 3 September 2016.

Water remains safe to drink and continues to be chlorinated by Hastings District Council.

Chlorine will leave (or dissipate) from water quite quickly by putting the water in a container or jug in the fridge. Boiling the water also helps take the chlorine taste out of the water.

Surveyed people reported that friends/family whānau were the most useful source of information during the outbreak followed by newspaper and websites.

Note: These findings may change as we do more detailed analysis.



Complications following Campylobacter infection

Campylobacter can recur, so it is important that good hand hygiene and protective measures are taken to prevent further spread of the illness.

- Health complications following campylobacter infection, although relatively rare, are possible. They include: Reactive Arthritis causes joint pain (commonly knees, ankles and

toe pain swelling). People usually respond well to anti inflammatories and treatment from their family doctor.

- Guillain Barré Syndrome (GBS), a rare complication following Campylobacter, has an incubation time of up to four weeks following infection. We would consider that any new cases are now not linked to the original outbreak.

Surveillance and monitoring stats

Further analysis of all hospitalisations during the outbreak shows that 45 people were admitted to Hawke’s Bay Hospital because of Campylobacter infection.

45
hospitalised
outbreak
cases

The numbers of hospitalised outbreak cases by age group @ 10/10/16

<1yr = 2	1–4yr = 1	5–9yr = 0	10–14yr = 1	15–19yr = 0	20–29yr = 2
30–39yr = 1	40–49yr = 4	50–59yr = 3	60–69yr = 4	70yr+ =27	TOTAL 45

During our recent surveillance and monitoring, we have also become aware of a further mild case of GBS, which takes the total cases of this rare complication following the Havelock North Campylobacter outbreak to three.

Further analysis of all primary care and hospital testing has now taken the number of confirmed and probable cases to 1072 notified to public health, although this does not change the number of cases estimated as a result of the survey (5530).

1072
confirmed cases
5530
estimated

Thank you

Thank you to those who participated in the reactive arthritis surveillance survey, some of who we will continue to contact. Our analysis of survey results continues as does our picture of this significant event and the effect it has had on our community.



Healthline provides 24/7 free health advice from a registered nurse and throughout the outbreak people were encouraged to use this free and confidential service.

Healthline calls about gastroenteritis rose sharply on 12 August 2016 with the majority of calls coming from within the Havelock North area.

Healthline data indicated calls were about both recent and persisting infections.

For free health advice 24/7 from a registered nurse phone **Healthline 0800 611 116**

FOR MORE INFORMATION GO TO:

www.ourhealthhb.nz or www.hastingsdc.govt.nz/hnwc

Remember to continue to look out for neighbours, families and anyone living on their own.

We are always interested in your feedback.

Email: comms@hbdhb.govt.nz, Phone: 027 599 9507 or write to:

Chief Executive Hawke’s Bay DHB, Private Bag 9014, Hastings 4156

