



Sixth Inter-Island Public Health Forum

Les Côtils Christian Centre, Cambridge Park Guernsey

Wednesday, 17th October - Saturday, 20th October 2001

Outbreak of *Cryptosporidium parvum* in Jersey Sept 2000/Jan 2001

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In September 2000, an above average increase was noted in the numbers of *Cryptosporidium* cases reported by the Pathology Laboratory at Jersey's General Hospital.

After interviewing several of the initial cases a clear trend was emerging, swimming became a clear risk factor, and one particular pool stood out above the rest. A thorough investigation at the pool was carried out and several risk factors emerged.

Cases became increasingly noted at other commercially operated pools. Inspections were carried out at all pools implicated and standard letters were sent to all pools used by the public. The letters listed precautions to be taken by pool operators to prevent the spread of *Cryptosporidium* and advice regarding exclusion periods for swimmers having experienced symptoms.

Secondary spread was observed in day nurseries and primary schools. Every childcare facility and primary school on the island were sent a letter informing them of precautions to be taken and reminded of the Island-wide exclusion policy.

Professional case & control questionnaires were obtained with each questionnaire taking approx. 20-25 minutes to complete over the telephone.

Statistical analysis was undertaken using case-control. The overwhelming conclusion was that swimming was the causal factor. Meetings with the major interests were held.

The heightened precautions were eventually relaxed in February 2001.