

Galway County Council, Galway City Council & HSE West update

March 28th

The HSE West, Galway City Council & Galway County Council Incident Response Team is continuing to work closely together. The Team includes people with expertise in environmental and water services, veterinary science, microbiology, public health and environmental health, with advice from the Environmental Protection Agency and Health Protection Surveillance Centre.

-Galway City Council and Galway County Council are continuing to carry out sampling of the water supplies. In an attempt to identify the source of the outbreak, specific tests were carried out on a number of water samples for the presence of *Cryptosporidium parvum* (the type that can be transmitted from animals to humans and *Cryptosporidium hominis* (the type that can be transmitted from human to human). Preliminary results from these water tests indicate the presence of both types.

-The number of cases of cryptosporidiosis continues to increase; the laboratory confirmed number of cases is now 125. Initial results on the small number of human specimens tested so far have detected the presence of *Cryptosporidium hominis* (the type that can be transmitted from human to human). This testing will continue in an effort to get a better understanding of the outbreak.

Further testing by Galway City Council, Galway County Council, and the HSE West is ongoing.

HSE West, Galway County Council & Galway City Council once again reiterate that it is essential that people in the affected areas continue to boil water intended for drinking or food preparation. If you are unsure of the source of your water supply, it is advised to boil your water as a precautionary measure.

For the advice of the public, water should not be used un-boiled for:

- o Drinking
- o Drinks made with water
- o Preparation of salads and similar foods, which are not cooked prior to eating
- o Brushing of teeth
- O Making of ice.

Water can be used for personal hygiene, bathing and flushing of toilets but not for brushing teeth or gargling

Boil water and allow to cool. Cover and store in a refrigerator or cold place. Water from the hot tap is not safe to drink.

Domestic water filters will not render water safe to drink.

Discard ice cubes in fridges and freezers and filtered water in fridges. Make ice from cooled boiled water.

Use water prepared for drinking when preparing foods that will not be cooked (e.g. washing salads, fruit and vegetables to be consumed uncooked)

Prepare baby feeds with water that has been brought to the boil once and cooled. Do not use water that has been reboiled several times.

Do not use bottled mineral water as most brands contain concentrations of minerals that are too high for babies.

Patients with on-going diarrhoea or have concerns about their symptoms should contact their family doctor. It is important that a patient would contact their GP before attending the A&E Department. They should continue to drink plenty of boiled or bottled water.

Information is available and updated regularly on www.galwaycity.ie, www.galway.ie and www.hse.ie