

James K Smith

From: James K Smith
Sent: Monday, 13 February 2017 4:00 PM
To: Roscoe Taylor; Sonya Bennett; Alun Richards; Margaret Young
Cc: MNPHU-CD; John Piispanen; Jennifer Conroy; metronorthnews; Fraser Gifford
Subject: RE: Gastro outbreak - Sun Princess

Hi Roscoe et al

I have further information regarding this outbreak.

Total cases now 153 (150 passengers, 3 crew). Norovirus identified in POC testing.

Quote from [redacted] below regarding current on board response:

The ship is currently operating at its level 3 sanitation procedures, captain's announcements have been made and health advisories have been distributed to all guest cabins. The ship will conduct a comprehensive sanitation of the ship, terminal and buses during its turnaround, this Thursday the 16th. Embarkation and departure has been delayed and additional cleaners engaged.

DAWR are already aware by way of the QPAR process, but I will also let them know we are involved through our local processes (and hopefully save Margaret an early wakeup call on Thursday!).

Dr [redacted] is the ship's MO and I have asked her to let us know if anyone is likely to require hospitalisation.

I don't have any info on next port yet, but will pass that on when I do.

Given this is the second outbreak within 2 weeks, Fraser is planning to do a site visit on Thursday. I haven't caught up with [redacted] in person for a little while, so will try and make it down to Hamilton too if time allows.

Cheers

James

From: Roscoe Taylor
Sent: Monday, 13 February 2017 9:42 AM
To: James K Smith; Sonya Bennett; Alun Richards; Margaret Young
Cc: MNPHU-CD; John Piispanen; Jennifer Conroy; metronorthnews
Subject: RE: Gastro outbreak - Sun Princess

Thanks James

And just letting you know that I was about to contact you - This morning we too received the notification from DAWR (via Heidi; I then called the Maritime Coordination Centre 1300 004 605) : the case numbers were reported to represent 5.3% of passengers. I was advised that if you need to add anything special to the vessel's "Biosecurity Document" (which used to be called "Approval to Berth") by way of instructions or restrictions it can be arranged through you contacting DAWR.

In this circumstance of a recurrent gastro outbreak, I am interested to know whether there is anything extra that you think could / should be done?

Best wishes

Roscoe

From: James K Smith
Sent: Monday, 13 February 2017 9:07 AM
To: Sonya Bennett; Roscoe Taylor; Alun Richards; Margaret Young
Cc: MNPHU-CD; John Piispanen; Jennifer Conroy; metronorthnews
Subject: Gastro outbreak - Sun Princess

Hi All

Just letting you know that there is another outbreak on board Sun Princess. This time there are 147 cases (144 passengers and 3 crew members) affected.

The vessel is due to arrive in Brisbane on Thursday for terminal clean and turn-around (hence why I've copied you in as on call PHP, Margaret).

I don't have any further details yet on next port, POC testing, etc. [redacted] will be calling later this morning.

Will get in touch with DAWR once we have some more information.

Cheers

James

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From: James K Smith
Sent: Monday, 13 February 2017 9:07 AM
To: Sonya Bennett; Roscoe Taylor; Alun Richards; Margaret Young
Cc: MNPHU-CD; John Piispanen; Jennifer Conroy; metronorthnews
Subject: Gastro outbreak - Sun Princess

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Cheers

James

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James K Smith

From: James K Smith
Sent: Tuesday, 14 February 2017 1:00 PM
To: '[redacted]@carnivalaustralia.com'
Cc: Fraser Gifford; John Piispanen; Megan Young; Mekala Srirajalingam
Subject: RE: Sun Princess_Increase in Gastroenteritis (Norovirus)

Hi [redacted]

I've just had a chance to look at the link in your email. The new strains referred to in the link are reference strains, i.e. reference labs have undertaken further subtyping of norovirus to look at which of these subtypes is circulating in the community and causing illness in different parts of the country/ world.

So, the article is referring to sub-strains of the major genogroups – there are 5 norovirus subdivisions which are grouped according to phylogenetic analysis, within which there are a number of reference sub-strains. Genogroups I, II and IV infect humans, although genogroup II is the variety that causes the vast amount of illness in Australia.

In terms of public health action, all norovirus is treated the same as it is all highly infectious and has a prolonged environmental survival. While there is evidence to suggest differences in immune response between genogroups I and II (and a suggestion that I may be less infectious than II), the difference clinically is likely to be minimal. We are not aware of any 'super strains' circulating.

I've spoken with QHFSS about further reference testing. While they are not formally a reference lab for norovirus, they can do further sub-typing. There would be a delay of >6 weeks before any sub-typing results are available.

The virologist I spoke with agreed that you are probably best off arranging confirmatory testing through the usual channels (i.e. QML, SNP or another community pathology lab). In addition to confirming your on board POC testing, the PCR used by these labs would also give you a genogroup.

If any further testing is then required down the track, QHFSS can obtain the specimens from the community labs.

I hope this helps. I am happy to talk further with you or [redacted] about it.

Cheers

James

From: [redacted]@carnivalaustralia.com [mailto:[redacted]@carnivalaustralia.com]
Sent: Tuesday, 14 February 2017 10:05 AM
To: James K Smith
Cc: Fraser Gifford
Subject: RE: Sun Princess_Increase in Gastroenteritis (Norovirus)

Hi James,

I have spoken with Fraser this morning and I will meet him at the ship on Thursday.

I believe the ship has 4 samples that can be off loaded for sub typing. Fraser was going to have a chat to you about it.

We are wondering if we are seeing a new strain onboard, which was discovered in Melbourne last year. There are a few reports on it, here is one.

<http://www.sciencealert.com/scientists-have-discovered-3-new-noroviruses-that-are-causing-gastro-outbreaks>

I'll update you tomorrow or should there be any changes.

kind regards,

[redacted]
Public Health Specialist
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From: James K Smith <James.Smith2@health.qld.gov.au>
To: [redacted]@carnivalaustralia.com <[redacted]@carnivalaustralia.com>,
Cc: Fraser Gifford <Fraser.Gifford@health.qld.gov.au>
Date: 14/02/2017 10:08 AM
Subject: RE: Sun Princess_Increase in Gastroenteritis (Norovirus)

Thank you very much, [redacted].

James

From: [redacted]@carnivalaustralia.com [mailto:[redacted]@carnivalaustralia.com]
Sent: Tuesday, 14 February 2017 6:51 AM
To: James K Smith
Cc: Fraser Gifford
Subject: RE: Sun Princess_Increase in Gastroenteritis (Norovirus)

Good morning James,
I briefly spoke to Fraser yesterday and will again today.

Following Thursday, the ship will be on a 10 day cruise to the pacific islands. (Vanuatu and New Caledonia)

The AGE response levels are below as well as an outline of each control measure policy. It is a lot to send and is contained within our an online safety management system. Suggest I go through it with Fraser on Thursday, and yourself if you make it. If you would like any of it for your records, I can work on getting you some of the documents.

I'll send through an update tomorrow before arrival, but good news the epi curve from this morning is that it continues on a downward trend.

AGE Response Levels		
Carnival Corporate Term	HA Group Term	Description
Baseline	Level 1	Baseline illness levels observed (e.g., background rates base for itinerary and voyage length). Standard operating procedur
Elevated	Level 2	<p>For vessels with <700 guest population:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ≥ 3 cases among either passengers or crew with illness or <p>For vessels with ≥700 guest population:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ≥ 6 cases among either passengers or crew with illness or
Maximum	Level 3	<p>Significant AGE activity observed where:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the cumulative proportion of reportable cases reach passengers or crew OR; there is an observed daily attack rate of ≥ 0.45%, and with illness onset within a 24-hour period OR; there are ≥ 15 cases with illness onset within 48-hour the number of new onset cases amongst passenger these thresholds, at the discretion of the Head of the Medical Department.

4.4 Outbreak Management and Control Measures

- The outbreak management and control measures are detailed in the following procedures:
 - EMR 2002 - Notification and Reporting.
 - EMR 2003 - Overall Management of Outbreaks.
 - EMR 2004 - Communication and Information during Outbreaks.
 - EMR 2005 - Management of Cleaning and Sanitizing during Outbreaks.
 - EMR 2006 - Management of Food and Beverage during Outbreaks.
 - EMR 2007 - Management of Housekeeping and Laundry during Outbreaks.
 - EMR 2008 - Medical Management during Outbreaks.
 - EMR 2009 - Management of Technical and Environmental Operations during Outbreaks.
 - EMR 2010 - Management of Public Facilities, Revenue and Administration Areas during Outbreaks.
 - EMR 2011 - Management of Security, Gangways, Deck Areas, and Crew Drills during Outbreaks.
 - EMR 2012 - Management of Child Activity and Youth Areas during Outbreaks.
 - EMR 2013 - Management of Shore Excursions and Transport during Outbreaks.
 - EMR 2014 - Management of Outbreak Turnarounds.
 - EMR 2015 - Management of Continued Precautions and the Return to Routine Operations.

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From: James K Smith <James.Smith2@health.qld.gov.au>
To: [redacted]@carnivalaustralia.com <[redacted]@carnivalaustralia.com>
Cc: Megan Young <Megan.Young@health.qld.gov.au>, [redacted]@hagroup.com <[redacted]@hagroup.com>, [redacted]@hagroup.com <[redacted]@hagroup.com>, [redacted]@hagroup.com <[redacted]@hagroup.com>, [redacted]@hagroup.com <[redacted]@hagroup.com>, [redacted]@carnivalaustralia.com <[redacted]@carnivalaustralia.com>
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<[redacted]@princesscruises.com>, [redacted]@carnivalaustralia.com <[redacted]@carnivalaustralia.com>
Date: 13/02/2017 04:46 PM
Subject: RE: Sun Princess_Increase in Gastroenteritis (Norovirus)

Thank you very much for this detailed email, [redacted].

Yes, it would be good to know if anyone is likely to require hospitalisation. We will make DAWR in Brisbane aware that we have been involved.

I understand you have spoken separately with Fraser Gifford and that Fraser will be coming down to Hamilton on Thursday. I will do my best to get down, but things are a bit frantic here at the moment – can I give you a call on Thursday morning to discuss?

Also, can I ask where Sun Princess will be heading after its next stop in Brisbane?

Thanks again, [redacted].

James

From: [redacted]@carnivalaustralia.com [mailto:[redacted]@carnivalaustralia.com]
Sent: Monday, 13 February 2017 2:25 PM
To: James K Smith
Cc: Megan Young; [redacted]@hagroup.com; [redacted]@hagroup.com; [redacted]@hagroup.com; [redacted]@carnivalaustralia.com; [redacted]@princesscruises.com; [redacted]@princesscruises.com; [redacted]@carnivalaustralia.com
Subject: Sun Princess_Increase in Gastroenteritis (Norovirus)

Good afternoon James,

As discussed on the phone earlier this morning, unfortunately the Sun Princess has experienced an increase in gastroenteritis during its current voyage. Onboard testing has confirmed norovirus to be the causative agent. The epi curve is attached.

The ship is currently operating at its level 3 sanitation procedures, captain's announcements have been made and health advisories have been distributed to all guest cabins. The ship will conduct a comprehensive sanitation of the ship, terminal and buses during its turnaround, this Thursday the 16th. Embarkation and departure has been delayed and additional cleaners engaged.

The ship's doctor is still Dr [redacted], and I have copied her in on this email should you require further information from the ship.

[redacted] - could you please let James know if you anticipate any norovirus related guests that may need an ambulance tomorrow, so they can prepare accordingly.

I will be at the ship on Thursday, please let me know if you intend on visiting and I will arrange to meet with you.

I will update you prior to arrival.

Kind regards,

[redacted]

[redacted]

Public Health Specialist
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RTI Release

James K Smith

From: James K Smith
Sent: Wednesday, 1 February 2017 2:24 PM
To: Sonya Bennett; Roscoe Taylor; Megan Young
Cc: MNPHU-CD
Subject: Gastro outbreak - Sun Princess

Dear Sonya and Roscoe, with a copy to Megan as on call PHP

We've been notified of 77 cases of gastro on board the cruise ship Sun Princess, comprising 71 guests and 6 crew members. Norovirus has been identified in POC testing in 4 cases.

Although there have been small numbers (?background noise) of cases since 21 Jan 2017, case numbers appear to have taken off on 29-30 Jan 2017.

The vessel has been on a 12 day cruise around PNG and is due to arrive in Brisbane at 07:00 am tomorrow morning, 2,039 passengers and 859 crew members.

Level 3 sanitation procedures are underway and the ship will undergo a full terminal clean when in Brisbane tomorrow, then departing 6:00 pm tomorrow evening.

Next port will be Dunedin, NZ on 14/02/2017.

DAWR are already aware, but I will follow up from this end. We will also ask the ship's medical officer to let us know if she expects any cases will require hospitalisation, so that we can let RBWH ED know if necessary.

Cheers

James

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