

Jenny Thomlinson

From: Wendy Morotti
Sent: Friday, 20 October 2017 11:10 AM
To: Jenny Thomlinson
Subject: FW: Call from [redacted] - new outbreak on Sun Princess
Attachments: [redacted]_Path_Testing_Email_14022017.pdf

From: Jenny Thomlinson
Sent: Wednesday, 22 February 2017 2:41 PM
To: Wendy Morotti
Subject: FW: Call from [redacted] - new outbreak on Sun Princess

Hi Wen,

Do we save these details around cruise boat outbreaks? And if so can you tell me where please.

Jen

Jenny Thomlinson
Public Health Nurse
Communicable Diseases and Infection Management Unit
Communicable Disease Branch

From: Notifiable Diseases Prevention & Control
Sent: Wednesday, 22 February 2017 1:43 PM
To: Jenny Thomlinson; Julie MacPhail; Debra El Saadi; Denise Jenkins; Wendy Morotti
Subject: FW: Call from [redacted] - new outbreak on Sun Princess

From: Roscoe Taylor
Sent: Wednesday, February 22, 2017 1:42:29 PM
To: Notifiable Diseases Prevention & Control
Subject: FW: Call from [redacted] - new outbreak on Sun Princess
Auto forwarded by a Rule

FYI only, really – looking curiouser and curiouser with 3 waves of outbreak in 4 weeks – but I suspect Sonya is right

From: Sonya Bennett
Sent: Wednesday, 22 February 2017 1:36 PM
To: James K Smith; Megan Young; Mekala Srirajalingam; Roscoe Taylor; Alun Richards
Cc: John Piispanen; Fraser Gifford; Jamie McMahon
Subject: RE: Call from [redacted] - new outbreak on Sun Princess

Hi James

Without seeing the epi curve, I'd question whether these are repeated outbreaks. I expect they may well be one continuous outbreak, with perhaps hidden cases in between. What is the longest interval where no cases have presented?

It would also be good to know the other characteristics of the clinical presentations such as incubation period, prevalence and severity of vomiting Vs diarrhoea etc. And any sample testing will hopefully confirm whether this is a new strain etc, to which people have little immunity. I suspect it is, as globally we are due for an epidemic.

All these things influence attack rates, which might explain the high number of cases on a ship where the non-immune population changes frequently, however the response to terminating the outbreak is still the same and requires vigilance in hygiene and cleaning.

I'm not telling anyone anything they don't already know but I guess I'm just hoping that whilst lab samples etc are all very interesting that Sun Princess is on top of the response as much as possible. Despite intense focus in this area, outbreaks can still tend to run their course in a stagnant population so will be even more difficult in a cruise ship with rotating population if they don't get on top of it.

Regards
Sonya



Dr Sonya Bennett

Executive Director

Communicable Diseases Branch, Department of Health

p: 07 33289723

m: [redacted]

a: Level 3, 15 Butterfield Street, Herston QLD 4006

w: [Queensland Health](#) e: sonya.bennett@health.qld.gov.au



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From: James K Smith

Sent: Wednesday, 22 February 2017 12:37 PM

To: Megan Young; Mekala Srirajalingam; Sonya Bennett; Roscoe Taylor; Alun Richards

Cc: John Piispanen; Fraser Gifford; Jamie McMahon

Subject: Call from [redacted] - new outbreak on Sun Princess

Hi Mekala and Megan, with copies to colleagues from CDB also to get the FYI ball rolling

I had a call this morning from Dr [redacted], CMO of Holland America Group. As you will have seen from earlier emails, we had planned to touch base anyway regarding the Sun Princess media from last week. Unfortunately the focus this morning was on a new outbreak aboard Sun Princess. Fraser has been in contact with [redacted], who is currently on the vessel and has circulated an epi curve showing 23 cases (21 guests and 2 crew). The vessel is currently at outbreak response level 3 and passengers with gastro are being seen in the infirmary at no cost.

[redacted] has raised the issue again of further subtyping of faecal specimens taken from cases. His rationale is that the vessel is experiencing repeated outbreaks and he believes some of the clinical characteristics may differ from norovirus

cases he has seen previously, in particular a short illness duration of <6 hours. I sent [redacted] a copy of an email I had previously sent [redacted] (attached) following a conversation with Jamie McMahon (also copied in).

[redacted] has undertaken to find out how many faecal specimens have been taken in this outbreak and get back to us. I have told him know that we will take another look at the testing issue to see whether there is anything further we can do to help.

Kind regards

James

Dr James Smith
Public Health Physician
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RTI Release

Toni Mclean

From: David Gould
Sent: Thursday, 27 April 2017 10:30 AM
To: Rebecca C Adams; Toni Mclean
Subject: C/HBO activity
Attachments: April 2017 check.csv

The attached spreadsheet has been downloaded from the QHEPS online tool for recording C/HBO activities. We do this three times a year to ensure the accuracy of the data prior to providing the annual report to the commonwealth on C/HBO activities. It would appear the last entry was on 4 march 2017 and related to an outbreak on a cruise ship.

I recommend the email below and the spreadsheet be forwarded to the C/HBOs for their review of the data.

Good morning

In line with the SOP for the Collation and reporting on Human Biosecurity Officer/Services data I request that you review the attached downloaded spreadsheet which was downloaded today from the database. The database records all the HBO activities which have been entered as part of any responses.

We undertake this periodically to ensure the accuracy of the data that has been entered into the QHEPS online tool for recording C/HBO activities. I understand this was discussed at the recent F2F PHP meeting. Please advise of any inaccuracies in the downloaded data. The data from the July collation will be used to populate the annual report template which is provided to the Commonwealth..

David

David Gould
Principal Environmental Health Officer
Communicable Diseases Branch
Prevention Division
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Other Type of activity specify	PHU Unit	AM PM	Type of activity	Date	Start time minutes	Finish time hour	Start time hour	Finish time minutes
	Central Queensland	AM	Phone call biosecurity response	16 09 2016	20	7	7	35
Follow up of case	Metro South	AM	Other	29 08 2016	0	10	10	15
Follow up of case	Metro South	AM	Other	29 08 2016	40	16	15	10
Follow up of case	Metro South	AM	Other	30 08 2016	0	11	11	59
Follow up of case	Metro South	AM	Other	31 08 2016	0	11	11	30
test	Department of Health	AM	Other	21 09 2016	15	13	13	30
	Cairns	AM	Phone call biosecurity response	07 02 2017	30	3	2	25
emails re biosecurity response and planning and administratio	Department of Health	AM	Other	07 02 2017	50	2	1	15
n rostering	Department of Health	AM	Other	09 02 2017	10	10	8	55

RTI Release

HBO administrati on communicati ng the on call Biosecurity Staff	Department of Health	AM	Other	09 02 2017	30	15	15	45
	Townsville	AM	Other	09 02 2017	0	3	1	0
			Phone call biosecurity response	21 02 2017	5	8	8	20
phone call cruise ship	Cairns	AM						
	Metro North	AM	Other	02 02 2017	20	7	7	35
			Phone call biosecurity response	04 03 2017	0	1	1	4
	Townsville	AM						

RTI Release

Jenny Thomlinson

From: Roscoe Taylor
Sent: Friday, 24 February 2017 5:16 PM
To: Mekala Srirajalingam; Toni Mclean
Cc: Sonya Bennett; James K Smith; Megan Young; Fraser Gifford; John Piispanen; Andrew Langley
Subject: Re: Sun Princess composite Epi Curve

Thank you Mekala
Regards
Roscoe

Sent from my iPhone

On 24 Feb 2017, at 17:07, Mekala Srirajalingam <Mekala.Srirajalingam@health.qld.gov.au> wrote:

Hi

I hope I have got it right.

<image003.png>

DATE	Guest cases (No)	Crew cases (No)
19-Jan-17		
20-Jan-17		
21-Jan-17	1	
22-Jan-17	1	1
23-Jan-17		
24-Jan-17		
25-Jan-17	2	
26-Jan-17		
27-Jan-17	1	
28-Jan-17	4	
29-Jan-17	3	
30-Jan-17	26	
31-Jan-17	30	4
01-Feb-17	3	1
02-Feb-17		
03-Feb-17	3	
04-Feb-17	9	
05-Feb-17	7	
06-Feb-17	19	
07-Feb-17	20	

08-Feb-17	21	
09-Feb-17	23	1
10-Feb-17	22	1
11-Feb-17	15	1
12-Feb-17	11	
13-Feb-17	7	
14-Feb-17	10	
15-Feb-17	6	
16-Feb-17		
17-Feb-17		1
18-Feb-17	11	
19-Feb-17	1	
20-Feb-17	3	1
21-Feb-17	6	
22-Feb-17	4	
23-Feb-17		1
24-Feb-17		
25-Feb-17		
26-Feb-17		

Dr Mekala Srirajalingam
 Relieving Public Health Physician
 Metro North Public Health
 Queensland Health

<Sun Princess epi curve 23 02 2017.xlsx>

RTI Release

Jenny Thomlinson

From: Sonya Bennett
Sent: Sunday, 26 February 2017 2:29 PM
To: Roscoe Taylor
Subject: Fwd: Sun Princess composite Epi Curve: Attn Glenn McDougall

Not sure what this is about
Just forwarded in case you have had any discussions otherwise will find out tomorrow

Dr Sonya Bennett
Executive Director
Communicable Diseases Branch
Prevention Division
Department of Health
Queensland Government

Mob:
Tel: 3328 9723
Email: sonya.bennett@health.qld.gov.au

Begin forwarded message:

From: Andrew Langley <andrewlangley@health.qld.gov.au>
Date: 26 February 2017 at 1:55:28 pm AEST
To: news <news@health.qld.gov.au>
Cc: Sonya Bennett <Sonya.Bennett@health.qld.gov.au>
Subject: Fwd: Sun Princess composite Epi Curve: Attn Glenn McDougall

Hi Glenn

Thanks for your phone call following a media enquiry and contact from the CHO. This is the data I received as part of handover at 3.07pm on Friday evening. Sonya Bennett was cc'd.

I have not been contacted by the cruise liner or by Biosecurity over the weekend.

As you can see there had been no cases reported on Friday and numbers last week were considerably below the previous weeks. The ship docked today and has been on an 11 nights/ 10 days round trip from Brisbane to New Caledonia & Vanuatu starting 16 Feb (<http://www.cruisemapper.com/deckplans/Sun-Princess-600>) The ship can carry 1998 passengers served by 925 crew/staff.

There had been a member of staff reported on Thursday but the last reported guest illness reportings were on Wednesday.

Regards

Andrew

Begin forwarded message:

From: Andrew Langley <Andrew.Langley@health.qld.gov.au>

Subject: FW: Sun Princess composite Epi Curve

Date: 24 February 2017 at 5:13:24 pm AEST

To: "andrewlangley@[REDACTED]" <[andrewlangley@\[REDACTED\]](mailto:andrewlangley@[REDACTED])>

and destroy any hard copies produced.

If not an intended recipient of this email, you must not

RTI Release

Jenny Thomlinson

From: Roscoe Taylor
Sent: Friday, 24 February 2017 11:18 AM
To: Toni Mclean; Kathryn O'Brien
Subject: FW: Advice on persistent noro cruise ship outbreaks

From: James K Smith
Sent: Friday, 24 February 2017 10:58 AM
To: Mark Ferson
Cc: Mekala Srirajalingam; John Piispanen; Sonya Bennett; Fraser Gifford; Roscoe Taylor; Kelly-Anne Ressler; Peter White; Jennifer Lun
Subject: RE: Advice on persistent noro cruise ship outbreaks

Terrific. Thank you very much, Mark, Peter and Jennifer.

James

From: Mark Ferson [<mailto:Mark.Ferson@health.nsw.gov.au>]
Sent: Friday, 24 February 2017 10:36 AM
To: James K Smith
Cc: Mekala Srirajalingam; John Piispanen; Sonya Bennett; Fraser Gifford; Roscoe Taylor; Kelly-Anne Ressler; Peter White; Jennifer Lun
Subject: RE: Advice on persistent noro cruise ship outbreaks

Dear James and colleagues

Prof Peter White at UNSW is interested in testing and typing any samples you may be able to obtain. I have copied Peter and his PhD candidate Jennifer Lun into this email, and attached last year's UNSW media release on their work.

Regards

Mark

From: James K Smith [<mailto:James.Smith2@health.qld.gov.au>]
Sent: Friday, 24 February 2017 11:13 AM
To: Kelly-Anne Ressler <KellyAnne.Ressler@health.nsw.gov.au>; Mark Ferson <Mark.Ferson@health.nsw.gov.au>
Cc: Mekala Srirajalingam <Mekala.Srirajalingam@health.qld.gov.au>; John Piispanen <John.Piispanen@health.qld.gov.au>; Sonya Bennett <Sonya.Bennett@health.qld.gov.au>; Fraser Gifford <Fraser.Gifford@health.qld.gov.au>; Roscoe Taylor <Roscoe.Taylor@health.qld.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Advice on persistent noro cruise ship outbreaks

Thank you very much, Kelly. This information is most helpful. Thank you again for taking the time to talk with us earlier too.

James

From: Kelly-Anne Ressler [<mailto:KellyAnne.Ressler@health.nsw.gov.au>]
Sent: Friday, 24 February 2017 9:59 AM
To: James K Smith; Mark Ferson
Cc: Mekala Srirajalingam
Subject: RE: Advice on persistent noro cruise ship outbreaks

You are very welcome James

As discussed, several years ago we conducted some environmental swabbing of a ship with a norovirus outbreak. The ship had sent samples via FedEx from Fiji to our Sydney lab so we had 3 of 4 samples positive before arrival. The ship had provided me with the cabin numbers of passengers with reportable AGE. They also sent the public vomit incident log. We then selected all cabins with a positive result and those with multiple ill pax and/or vomit/faecal incidents. To this we added other locations from experience – this included the casino areas and commonly touched surfaces such as telephones, buttons and handrails.

31% of swabs taken were positive. Interestingly 50% of swabs taken in the casino were positive, this included the coin machine and buttons on poker machines and the money trays. Positive areas in cabins included the fabric bed head, a door to the balcony, telephone, sides of a TV and granite bench top surfaces (in a suite). The ship had reported that they had trouble achieving cleaning compliance with the retail shops, because they were sub-contractors. We swabbed the cash registers which were also positive. We got positives in areas that had reportedly been sanitised, which showed the persistence of the virus in the environment. We did not detect norovirus on handrails, public toilets or in the medical centre, as I think these areas are the main focus of sanitising efforts made by the ship.

Hope this helps.
Kelly

From: James K Smith [<mailto:James.Smith2@health.qld.gov.au>]
Sent: Friday, 24 February 2017 10:32 AM
To: Mark Ferson <Mark.Ferson@health.nsw.gov.au>; Kelly-Anne Ressler <KellyAnne.Ressler@health.nsw.gov.au>
Cc: Mekala Srirajalingam <Mekala.Srirajalingam@health.qld.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Advice on persistent noro cruise ship outbreaks

Dear Mark and Kelly

Thank you very much for your advice this morning. We really appreciate you taking the time to talk about the NSW experience.

Kind regards

James

Dr James Smith
Public Health Physician
Metro North Public Health Unit
Bryden Street
Windsor Qld 4030
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From: Mark Ferson [<mailto:Mark.Ferson@health.nsw.gov.au>]
Sent: Friday, 24 February 2017 8:48 AM
To: Sonya Bennett; Fraser Gifford; James K Smith
Cc: enteric; Vicky Sheppeard; Kelly-Anne Ressler; Keira Glasgow
Subject: RE: Advice on persistent noro cruise ship outbreaks

Hi all

Perhaps you can let us know what has been done to date.

In our experience this seems to happen from time to time, in general the cruise lines put an enormous effort into decontaminating affected areas/the whole ship, often extending a stay at the home port to bring in extra cleaning crews.

We also facilitate norovirus testing and typing through the local public health lab (SEALS, Prince of Wales Hospital) and typing by Prof Peter White at UNSW. Unlikely to help here.

Mark

Prof Mark J Ferson MPH MArTh MD FRACP FAFPHM FRSPH
Director and Public Health Officer, Public Health Unit,
Planning, Population Health and Equity,
South Eastern Sydney Local Health District;
Conjoint Professor, School of Public Health
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Adjunct Professor, School of Medicine Sydney,
University of Notre Dame Australia
Locked Bag 88, Randwick NSW 2031, Australia
Tel: +61 2 9382 8233, Fax: +61 2 9382 8314, Mobile:
<http://www.seslhd.health.nsw.gov.au/PublicHealth/default.asp>

From: Sonya Bennett [<mailto:Sonya.Bennett@health.qld.gov.au>]
Sent: Friday, 24 February 2017 9:40 AM
To: Vicky Sheppeard <VSHEP@doh.health.nsw.gov.au>; Kelly-Anne Ressler <KellyAnne.Ressler@health.nsw.gov.au>;
Keira Glasgow <Keira.Glasgow@health.nsw.gov.au>
Cc: Mark Ferson <Mark.Ferson@health.nsw.gov.au>; enteric <enteric@doh.health.nsw.gov.au>; Fraser Gifford
<Fraser.Gifford@health.qld.gov.au>; James K Smith <James.Smith2@health.qld.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Advice on persistent noro cruise ship outbreaks

Thanks Vicky

I have copied in Fraser Gifford and Dr James Smith from Metro North PHU who are managing the issue

You may already have been in touch

Many thanks
Sonya



Dr Sonya Bennett

Executive Director

Communicable Diseases Branch, **Department of Health**

p: 07 33289723

a: Level 3, 15 Butterfield Street, Herston QLD 4006

w: [Queensland Health](#) **e:** sonya.bennett@health.qld.gov.au



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From: SHEPPEARD, Vicky [<mailto:VSHEP@doh.health.nsw.gov.au>]
Sent: Friday, 24 February 2017 8:33 AM
To: Kelly-Anne Ressler; Keira Glasgow
Cc: Mark.Ferson@health.nsw.gov.au; Sonya Bennett; enteric
Subject: Advice on persistent noro cruise ship outbreaks

Dear Kelly/Keira

My colleague, Sonya Bennett from Qld Health, is wondering if you have any additional advice in regard to a Queensland cruise ship that has had noro on 3 successive cruises?

Apparently standard measures have been implemented.

Would you be able to liaise with Sonya's team to review their approach?

Many thanks

Vicky

Dr Vicky Sheppard

Director, Communicable Diseases | **Health Protection NSW**
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