

Jenny Thomlinson

From: Mark Ferson <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
Attachments: Noroviruses.docx

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
P: (07) 3624 1113
M:
James.Smith2@health.qld.gov.au
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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 MArtTh 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
& Community Medicine, UNSW;
Adjunct Professor, School of Medicine Sydney,
University of Notre Dame Australia.
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http://www.seslhd.health.nsw.gov.au/Public_Health/default.asp

From: Sonya Bennett [mailto:Sonya.Bennett@health.qld.gov.au]
Sent: Friday, 24 February 2017 9:40 AM
To: Vicky Sheppard <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



Queensland
Government

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

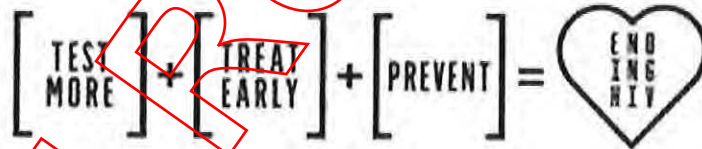
Vicky

Dr Vicky Sheppard

Director, Communicable Diseases | **Health Protection NSW**
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Tel 02 9391 9633 | Fax 02 9391 9848 | vshep@doh.health.nsw.gov.au
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Kathryn O'Brien

From: Roscoe Taylor
Sent: Friday, 24 February 2017 10:20 AM
To: Toni Mclean; Kathryn O'Brien
Subject: FW: Advice on persistent noro cruise ship outbreaks

Doesn't mention carpet but does include fabric bed head!

From: James K Smith
Sent: Friday, 24 February 2017 10:13 AM
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Dr Sonya Bennett

Executive Director

Communicable Diseases Branch, Department of Health

p: 07 33289723

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w: Queensland Health e: sonya.bennett@health.qld.gov.au



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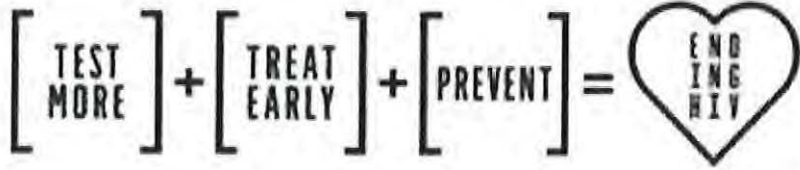
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Many thanks
Vicky

Dr Vicky Sheppeard



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RTI Release

Kathryn O'Brien

From: Toni Mclean
Sent: Friday, 24 February 2017 9:25 AM
To: Kathryn O'Brien
Subject: FW: Call from [redacted] - new outbreak on Sun Princess

From: Sonya Bennett
Sent: Friday, 24 February 2017 8:59 AM
To: Toni Mclean
Cc: Roscoe Taylor
Subject: FW: Call from [redacted] - new outbreak on Sun Princess

From: Mekala Srirajalingam
Sent: Thursday, 23 February 2017 12:06 PM
To: Sonya Bennett; James K Smith
Cc: Fraser Gifford; John Piispanen; Megan Young; Roscoe Taylor; Daniel Francis; Steven Donohue; Richard Gair; Mekala Srirajalingam
Subject: RE: Call from [redacted] - new outbreak on Sun Princess

Hi Sonya
Docking details as follows :
here's the ships itinerary.

26	Su	10/00	Brisbane
27	Mo	01	At Sea
28	Tu	02	Airlie Beach
▼ March, 2017			
01	We	03	Cairns
02	Th	04	Port Douglas
03	Fr	05	Willis Island
04	Sa	06	At Sea
05	Su	07/00	Brisbane

Dr Mekala Srirajalingam
Relieving Public Health Physician
Metro North Public Health
Queensland Health
[redacted]

From: Sonya Bennett
Sent: Thursday, 23 February 2017 10:52 AM
To: Mekala Srirajalingam; James K Smith
Cc: Fraser Gifford; John Piispanen; Megan Young; Roscoe Taylor; Daniel Francis
Subject: RE: Call from [redacted] - new outbreak on Sun Princess

Thanks Mekala

For the purposes of notifying other jurisdictions, where does the ship head after berthing in Brisbane on 26th?

Regards
Sonya

From: Mekala Srirajalingam
Sent: Thursday, 23 February 2017 10:24 AM
To: James K Smith; Sonya Bennett
Cc: Fraser Gifford; John Piispanen; Megan Young; Roscoe Taylor; Mekala Srirajalingam; Daniel Francis
Subject: RE: Call from [redacted] - new outbreak on Sun Princess

Hi Sonya
Apologise for not getting back sooner.

Cruise 1 – 22/01-01/02- Cases from start. One crew member and three staff got sick on Feb 1, last day of this cruise.
Ship turn around same day.

Cruise 2 – 01/02-15/02. Three passengers got sick on Feb 2nd. Followed by cases every day in passengers. 3 staff got sick on Feb 9, 10, 11 accord to epi curve.

Cruise 3 - 16/02/2017 – 26/02/2017 10 day cruise to Vanuatu and New Calidonia. Returning to Brisbane on 26/02. The ship is maintaining its outbreak operation procedures, and an additional comprehensive clean was conducted yesterday, as planned, while the ship was in Port Vila. This was in conjunction with a full linen change.

Report on 22 Feb with epi curve received. Total cases 23 (0.79%) = Guest 21 (1.03%) + Crew 2 (0.23%)

Feb 17 – one crew member sick.

Feb 18 – 11 cases in passengers.

Trickling of cases each day.

Fraser [EH] is working on getting the cruise to mapping berths etc.

Cruise interested in advanced testing to see if identical Noro on all three cruises as well as if super virulent etc. They have been advised to go through private pathology to QFSS.

No information on symptoms specifically for each case or the roles of the staff.

Kind Regards
Mekala.

Dr Mekala Srirajalingam
Relieving Public Health Physician
Metro North Public Health
Queensland Health
[redacted]

From: James K Smith
Sent: Wednesday, 22 February 2017 3:56 PM
To: Sonya Bennett; Mekala Srirajalingam
Subject: RE: Call from [redacted] - new outbreak on Sun Princess

Hi Sonya

I'll put you onto Mekala, as she is following up with this one.

James

From: Sonya Bennett
Sent: Wednesday, 22 February 2017 3:20 PM
To: James K Smith
Subject: RE: Call from [redacted] - new outbreak on Sun Princess

James

Where is the ship heading. Does it routinely return to Brisbane or visit other ports in Australia

Thanks
Sonya

From: James K Smith
Sent: Wednesday, 22 February 2017 1:52 PM
To: Sonya Bennett; 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

Thanks very much, Sonya. All good points.

This final case on the last voyage was on the 15th and the next case in the subsequent (3rd) outbreak on the following voyage was on 17th (interestingly a single crew member, with 11 passengers the following day).

James

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

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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

Metro North Public Health Unit

Bryden Street

Windsor Qld 4030

P: (07) 3624 1113

M: [redacted]

James.Smith2@health.qld.gov.au

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RTI Release