

August 18, 2010 - Public Health *E.coli* investigation update

Clark County Public Health is wrapping up its investigation of possible *E.coli* cases following positive test results in a child who attended a supervised play area at Lake Shore Athletic Club while possibly contagious.

The supervised play area reopened on Monday, August 16th. However, children and staff who were identified as probable *E.coli* cases will continue to be excluded from the play area until they have two negative stool specimens collected 24 hours (or greater) apart.

August 13, 2010 - Public Health *E.coli* investigation update

Clark County Public Health has investigated possible *E.coli* cases following positive test results in a child who attended a supervised play area at Lake Shore Athletic Club while possibly contagious.

All families and staff who attended the supervised play area from July 10 to August 4 have either been contacted by telephone or sent certified letters explaining the situation and giving basic information. The athletic club voluntarily closed the play area on the evening of August 4.

Public Health staff and volunteers have reached about 225 contacts- children and club staff who might have been exposed- to find out if potentially exposed persons were experiencing gastrointestinal symptoms of diarrhea that may have been bloody.

Through interviews with families and athletic club staff who worked in the play area during that time, Public Health found 34 cases of diarrhea symptoms in children and staff. Public Health requested all 34 people to be tested either through Public Health or through their private provider.

Based on the investigative guidelines, these 34 cases are classified as “probable” cases. Of 32 cases that have submitted stool samples for testing, 27 have come back confirmed negative for *E.coli*. No positive test results have been returned. The supervised play area is scheduled to reopen Monday, August 16.

We cannot conclude that any of the 34 cases are *E.coli* because children commonly get a variety of gastrointestinal illnesses. The Communicable Disease Unit at Clark County Public Health will continue to monitor lab results, and conduct case investigation when necessary.

To prevent the possible spread of *E.coli*, contacts have been asked to remember to wash hands frequently and thoroughly, especially after going to the bathroom, after changing diapers and before preparing food. In addition, people should observe proper diaper changing hygiene, food storage and preparation, and other precautions.

Children diagnosed as probable or confirmed cases of *E.coli* must not return to a child care facility until they have two negative stool tests in a 48-hour period.