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**Environment Department, Health Department, Albuquerque Environmental Health  
Division Ask Residents to Take Precautions before Entering Public Pools**  
*Departments Investigating Swimming Pool Parasite Cases in Albuquerque, Farmington, Bloomfield*

(Santa Fe, NM) The New Mexico Environment Department, the New Mexico Department of Health and the City of Albuquerque Environmental Health Division are working collaboratively to inform residents in Albuquerque, Farmington and Bloomfield about the effects of the parasite cryptosporidiosis in pools. The department ordered the temporary closure and shock chlorination of two pools in Farmington, one pool in Bloomfield and three pools at Kirtland Air Force Base in Albuquerque after confirming cases of people with the parasite who entered those pools.

The Environment Department's Environmental Health Division required the temporary closure and hyper chlorination of pools at Farmington Aquatic Center, San Juan Country Club, Bloomfield Aquatic Center and three pools at Kirtland Air Force Base. The pools will reopen after hyper chlorination.

"The Environment Department wants to ensure swimmers and bathers are safe and recommends they are aware of certain precautions to help them avoid becoming sick," said New Mexico Environment Department Secretary Ron Curry. "In general, most pools in the state are safe for residents to use, however, we ask swimmers to maintain proper hygiene and safe practices that will keep our pools safe."

In addition, the City of Albuquerque treated the West Mesa pool Aug. 14 after cases of the parasite were confirmed in connection with that pool. The city treated that pool again today. The city treated all of its other pools Aug. 18 as a precaution. The other pools are open and West Mesa should reopen tomorrow afternoon.

Symptoms of cryptosporidiosis, also called crypto, include diarrhea and abdominal cramping, anorexia, nausea, vomiting and fever. Symptoms, which start from one to 12 days after exposure, often come and go,

but clear up within 30 days in healthy people. The disease may last longer and can contribute to death in immunocompromised individuals, especially those with HIV, who may be unable to clear the parasite.

The parasite is spread by multiple routes including fecal-oral, person to person and waterborne transmission. Outbreaks have been caused when bathers and swimmers who have contracted the parasite enter a public pool where others in the pool are exposed. The parasite can also be carried from one pool to another.

The Environment Department recommends that those who use pools maintain good hygiene, shower before entering pools and refrain from frequenting pools if they are sick or have symptoms of diarrhea. People should refrain from swimming while they are ill with diarrhea and if they are diagnosed with crypto, for an additional 2 weeks after symptoms resolve. People can continue to shed the parasite for two weeks after the diarrhea stops.

The Department of Health has confirmed four cases of crypto – a 9-year-old male from San Juan County and a 2-year-old female, 8-year-old male and a 12-year-old male all from Bernalillo County. The Department is also investigating 38 probable cases. The Department is working closely with the Environment Department and U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to identify other cases.

“We will continue our investigation and continue to require hyper chlorination of any pools confirmed to be linked to the parasite,” Secretary Curry added.

The Environment Department requests that those who have symptoms of crypto after swimming in pools contact Raj Solomon, NMED Pool Program Manager at (505) 222-9500.

For more information, call Marissa Stone at (505) 827-0314.

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