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Cryptosporidiosis outbreak

As of 13 February 1998, 161 confirmed cases of cryptosporidiosis in the Australian Capital Territory had been reported to the Department of Health and Community Care. Approximately 60% of the cases reported to 2 February had swum in one of two public swimming pools, which have subsequently been closed for cleaning. As of 14 February the New South Wales Health Department had received 126 notifications of cryptosporidiosis since the start of December, compared with 57 for January to November 1997. *Cryptosporidium parvum* is very resistant to many

common disinfectants including chlorine, and it is considered that any swimming pool could become a vehicle for transmitting the infection. Symptoms usually last for about two weeks and include diarrhoea, vomiting and loss of appetite. The infection may be asymptomatic. Further water testing is being conducted and other possible sources are being investigated. Pool managers and child care centres are being asked to discourage attendance by anyone suffering diarrhoea, and people are being advised to pay particular attention to personal hygiene.

Notice to readers

Web site for Medical Entomology

http://www-personal.usyd.edu.au/~sdoccett/medical_entomology.htm

This web site has been created by the Department of Entomology, Institute of Clinical Pathology and Medical Research, Westmead Hospital, New South Wales, a unit of the Department of Medicine, University of Sydney. This is the national reference laboratory for medical entomology. This site provides information on insects and other arthropods of medical and public health importance, and on vector-borne diseases and other related problems that are of concern in Australia.