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Ottawa County Stomach Illnesses and Holland Restaurant

HOLLAND –The Ottawa County Department of Public Health (OCDPH) received numerous responses from members of the community that became ill after dining at Wild Chef Japanese Steakhouse in Holland. Media coverage of the event was helpful in directing the public to the questionnaire. More than 400 responses were received by people that dined at the establishment between Thursday, March 27 and Tuesday, April 1, 2014. Over 30% of those that responded had eaten at the establishment and not become ill. The data gathered through the survey has been instrumental to the investigation of the event

There have been numerous reports of norovirus cases in Ottawa County and in several surrounding communities. Many of those sickened at Wild Chef experienced symptoms consistent with norovirus, however, laboratory confirmation is pending. A re-open date for Wild Chef has not yet been determined by OCDPH.

- Norovirus is most common towards the end of winter and early spring. It is very easy to spread to others. Norovirus is the most common gastric viral infection.
- A vomiting incident contains in excess of 30,000,000 viral particles, ingestion of as few as 10 and 100 viral particles may be enough to cause infection.
- If you have norovirus, you are most contagious when you are sick with the illness and during the first 3 days after you feel better.

Most Common Symptoms of Norovirus

- Sudden onset of, usually lasting 24-36 hours
 - diarrhea, throwing up, nausea, stomach pain.
- Can include
 - fever, headache, and body aches.

If You Have Norovirus

- Prevent dehydration-drink plenty of fluids to replace those that are lost from throwing up and diarrhea.
- If you, or someone you are caring for, are severely dehydrated, call a doctor.

Prevent the Spread

- Stay home if you are experiencing symptoms.
- Practice proper hand hygiene. Wash your hands carefully with soap and water, especially after using the toilet and changing diapers and always wash before eating, preparing or handling food. Hand sanitizer is not effective at killing norovirus.
- When you are sick, do not prepare food or care for others who are sick.

- Clean any potentially contaminated areas with a chlorine bleach solution, mixing ¼ cup of bleach with one gallon of water.
- Immediately remove and wash clothes or linens that may be contaminated with vomit or stool (feces).
- It is recommended that you stay home 24 hours after symptoms subside.

To help prevent the spread of illness to others, visit the Michigan Department of Community Health cleaning and disinfecting guide at <http://ow.ly/vogff>

Report Wild Chef associated foodborne illness www.surveymonkey.com/s/wildchef
Centers for Disease Control <http://www.cdc.gov/norovirus>

Ottawa County Department of Public Health Policy & Procedure Information

The role of OCDPH is to protect public health. OCDPH has been recognized by the State of Michigan to have demonstrated excellent active managerial control of the food service program through an effective quality assurance process. The Ottawa County Procedures for the Administration and Enforcement of the Michigan Food Law 2000 as amended was identified as a model for best practice.

Each time OCDPH conducts an inspection with Ottawa County operators, they make it a priority to educate operators to ensure safe food is served to the public. It is a priority of the OCDPH to highlight that safe food goes hand-in-hand with a successful business. Routine inspections and complaint prompted inspections are just a snap shot of daily activity and are conducted at every licensed establishment in Ottawa County. The health department will cite any low, medium or high health risks and provide education on how to correct the item. When an outbreak has been identified a team of health officials, consisting of the public health officer, medical director, epidemiologist, communicable disease experts and food safety investigators immediately conduct a full investigation, to best determine the cause of illness and prevent further spread. Since Wild Chef has been under new ownership, as of April 9, 2012, the establishment has not qualified for any enforcement action.

Inspection and Enforcement procedures for Ottawa County: attached

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Our Vision – Healthy People