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Investigation of outbreak of illness completed by health officials

The Population Health Unit has completed its investigation of an outbreak of illness experienced by the Dauphin Kings hockey team. The team had become ill after travelling from Dauphin, Manitoba to La Ronge, Saskatchewan to face the La Ronge Ice Wolves in the Anavet Cup series.

"The cause of the outbreak was likely a virus," said Dr. Monika Dutt, Deputy Medical Health Officer for the three northern health authorities.

The team likely became ill after being exposed to a single source, she added. It is difficult to determine if that source was a meal that they ate together, since there were several people who did not become ill after eating the same food. After some members of the team became sick, the infection may have been spread to others on the team, or who had contact with the team.

"Unfortunately, we can't say what the exact cause was, as there were no samples sent for testing," said Dutt.

When people have symptoms such as vomiting and diarrhea, samples can be sent to the laboratory to be analysed to see if there is a virus, bacteria or parasite that caused the illness. Often samples are not sent because people who become ill do not seek medical attention, or because they can receive medical treatment without having testing done. Samples of food suspected of causing illness can also be sent to be tested.

The investigation involved collaboration with public health officials in Dauphin, Manitoba and other health regions. No risk to the health of the public was found during the investigation.