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Outbreak of illness being investigated by health officials

The Population Health Unit is investigating an outbreak of illness experienced by the Dauphin Kings hockey team after they had spent several days in La Ronge and other parts of Saskatchewan.

“Different possible sources of infection are being assessed, including bacteria and viruses that can be spread in food, water and air,” said Dr. Monika Dutt, Deputy Medical Health Officer for the three northern health authorities. “Currently there have been no findings that indicate a risk to the health of the public.”

Public health officials investigate potential food-borne outbreaks in many ways, including interviewing people who ate the suspect food and by inspecting food service establishments. The investigation of this outbreak is ongoing, with the collaboration of health officials in Dauphin, Manitoba and other health regions.

Symptoms such as diarrhea or vomiting that occur due to infections from contaminated food can occur shortly after eating the food, or up to several days or even weeks later, said Dutt. If someone becomes sick from eating contaminated food they may be able to transmit that infection to another person.

Important actions to take to prevent infection transmission include the proper cooking and storage of food, and good hygiene, including hand washing and not sharing personal items.

If members of the public have questions about food-borne illnesses or food safety, or have a concern about a particular food service establishment, they can contact the Population Health Unit at 425-8512 to speak with a Public Health Inspector.