

SOLANO PUBLIC HEALTH

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HEALTH ALERT

LOCAL INCREASE IN CAMPYLOBACTER CASES

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To: Solano County Healthcare Providers
From: Solano County Public Health

Summary: Solano County Public Health is investigating an increase in the number of positive campylobacter laboratory reports within Solano County. We ask that all healthcare providers be vigilant in the evaluation of patients with acute diarrheal illness and appropriately assess these patients for campylobacteriosis.

Campylobacteriosis is an acute gastrointestinal illness characterized by watery and/or bloody stool caused by ingestion of the microorganism *Campylobacter jejuni* or *Campylobacter coli*. Cases are most often reported as being associated with **ingestion of contaminated food (particularly poultry), drinking contaminated water or milk and contact with infected animals (especially puppies and kittens)**. Although uncommon, **person to person transmission** can occur **through fecal-oral route**.

Signs and Symptoms:

- Watery or Bloody Diarrhea
- Abdominal pain
- Myalgia
- Nausea
- Fever

Complication of campylobacteriosis include reactive arthritis, irritable bowel syndrome, and Guillain-Barre syndrome.

Source: The most common sources are feces of infected animals or persons, contaminated poultry, unpasteurized milk, meat, water or food products.

Diagnosis: **Campylobacteriosis should be suspected in severe abdominal pain with diarrhea** – clinical history, travel and food history, and recent contact with others who have similar symptoms will help identify an epidemiological link.

Recommendations for Surveillance and Laboratory Testing:

Obtain stool specimens for testing in patients who show symptoms of campylobacteriosis and report positive findings to Solano Public Health, Communicable Disease Program.

For questions on campylobacteriosis or other communicable disease conditions, please contact **Solano Public Health Communicable Disease Program at: 707-784-8001**.

