No New Cases of Illness Expected in Walkerton

In its investigation of the Walkerton outbreak, the Grey Bruce Health Unit does not expect to see any new cases of illness. No new cases of E. coli or campylobacter infection have been identified since June 9, including cases of secondary infection.

The disease portion of an outbreak can be considered over once two incubation periods have elapsed without new illness. The incubation period for E. coli is 2-8 days and for campylobacter is 1-10 days. Since the last recorded onset of illness, Walkerton has experienced well over two incubation periods without new illness.

The precautions Walkerton residents are taking with their water are working. The Public Health Unit urges residents to continue boiling their drinking water and washing hands and dishes in the prescribed solution of chlorine and water. These measures are effective and must be continued until the Boil Water Advisory is lifted.

People need to realize that many Walkerton residents still suffer symptoms of E. coli or campylobacter many weeks after the onset of their infection. However, the Public Health lab's latest confirmed new case is well over a month ago.

Says Medical Officer of Health Dr. Murray McQuigge, "The disease portion of the Walkerton outbreak is winding down because of the good work of the people of Walkerton. They have rigorously followed the guidelines to prevent the spread of the infection and have done so in a time of great stress and hardship."