

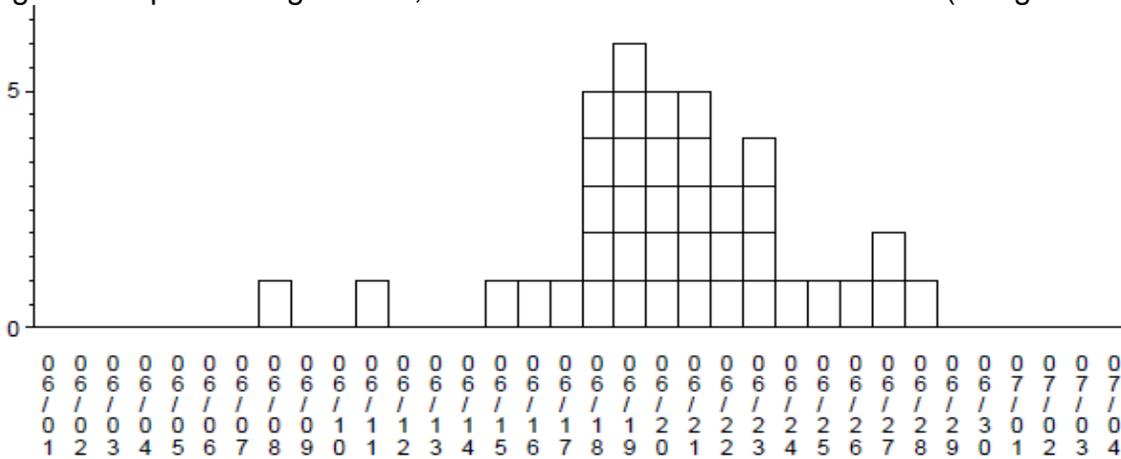
July 22, 2013,

To: Douglas County Health Care Providers
From: Adi M. Pour, PhD, Health Director, Douglas County Health Department

RE: Cyclospora outbreak update

To date, 40 Douglas County residents have tested positive for *Cyclospora* infection (cyclosporiasis). The median age of the case-patients is 62 years (range 22-89) and 64% are female. Onset dates ranged from 6/8/13 to 6/29/13 in the 39 case-patients that have been interviewed.

Figure 1. Epidemiologic curve, cases with known illness onset date (Douglas County, n=39)



Douglas County Health Department (DCHD) is continuing to investigate in collaboration with other state and federal agencies, including the CDC and the FDA. Currently, the epidemiologic investigation is showing that the source is likely a fresh vegetable produce item that originated outside the US and was distributed to multiple restaurants and stores, mainly across Nebraska and Iowa. Fresh fruits have been ruled out as the source of this outbreak.

The majority of illnesses in Nebraska and Iowa occurred before July 1. Because of this and the fact that fresh produce has a limited shelf life, it is felt that the food source of this outbreak is no longer on the market. The CDC and FDA are using the epidemiologic information to trace back the food source to its origin to prevent future outbreaks by determining the cause of the contamination.

When evaluating a patient with severe, watery diarrhea, consider the following:

- If illness onset is after July 1, the illness is more likely caused by another pathogen.
- If you wish to test for cyclosporiasis, **you must specifically request that the lab test for *Cyclospora* in a stool specimen.**

This memo and other cyclosporiasis information can be found on our web site at:
<http://www.douglascountyhealth.com/disease-a-immunization/cyclosporiasis-cyclospora-infection>.
The status of the national investigation can be found here:
<http://www.cdc.gov/parasites/cyclosporiasis/outbreaks/investigation-2013.html>

Please call the DCHD Communicable Disease Epidemiology Section at 402.444.7214 if you have any questions or need to report a case.