



NEWS RELEASE
October 1, 2008

Media Contacts:
Pam Davenport
(801) 468-2757
Kate Lilja
(801) 468-2268

Salt Lake Valley Health Department Releases 2008 Crypto Report *Outbreak avoided, season heralded as a success*

(Salt Lake County) – With the release of their 2008 Cryptosporidium Report, the Salt Lake Valley Health Department (SLVHD) is officially marking the end of a very successful crypto season. In total, there were only seven confirmed cases of cryptosporidiosis in the county, a sizeable decrease from the 684 cases reported during the summer of 2007. No resurgent outbreak was detected and crypto infection levels returned to and remained at their normal levels.

“After last year’s communitywide outbreak, we knew there would need to be a well coordinated public health response to prevent a repeat outbreak this summer,” says Gary Edwards, SLVHD executive director. “Since the end of last year’s outbreak, SLVHD worked closely with local pool operators, the Utah Department of Health and local health departments to create an effective prevention and mitigation plan.”

The massive public health effort included collaboration with pool operators and public health officials in crafting new pool regulations, operational strategies and guidelines for the implementation of new and more effective water treatment technologies. Internally, all areas of swimming pool and public health surveillance were reviewed and revised to streamline the process and increase SLVHD’s ability to respond more effectively.

In a successful effort to engage the public, the *Keep it Clean – No Crypto* educational campaign was launched at the beginning of the swimming season. Employing memorable commercials, Newspapers in Education insert, radio public service announcements, community outreach and a campaign website (www.nocrypto.org), residents were called to adopt healthy swimming behaviors to help prevent a crypto outbreak.

“The public’s reaction to key health messages – such as don’t go swimming for at least two weeks after you have had diarrhea and never changing diapers by the side of the pool – was very positive,” says Edwards. “A large part of this season’s success lies with the overwhelming cooperation of Salt Lake County residents.”

To view the 2008 Cryptosporidiosis Action Report in its entirety, visit the SLVHD website at www.slvhealth.org.

###