



Grant County Health District – Always Working for a Safer and Healthier Grant County

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Public Health Officials Investigating Salmonella Illnesses at Gorge Amphitheatre

The Grant County Health District in cooperation with the Washington State Department of Health and British Columbia Centre for Disease Control is investigating cases of *Salmonella enteritidis* that occurred in individuals who attended the Sasquatch Music Festival May 29-31, 2010 (Memorial Day weekend) at the Gorge Amphitheatre.

There are currently seven confirmed cases. Three of the cases are from Washington State and four are from British Columbia. There have been no reported illnesses from the Tom Petty concert of June 11-12, 2010.

Grant County Health District food inspectors are working with Aramark, the contractor responsible for providing food service at the Gorge, on food safety procedures. The food inspectors will be present at the Gorge Amphitheatre on Saturday July 3, 2010 during Lilith Fair to monitor food handling practices.

Salmonella enteritidis is a bacteria sometimes found in chicken or eggs. A person can become sick if they eat undercooked chicken or eggs, eat foods that have been cross contaminated with raw chicken or eggs, or eat foods prepared by a person ill with the disease that did not properly wash their hands after using the restroom.

Symptoms of *Salmonella enteritidis* infection typically start within 12-72 hours of consuming the contaminated food and can include fever, cramps, or diarrhea.

To reduce the chance of further illnesses, the Grant County Health District is recommending concert goers:

- To wash their hands thoroughly and frequently with hot water and soap at least 30 seconds after using the restroom and before consuming any food.
- To not eat chicken or eggs served at room temperature. Hot foods should be hot and cold foods should be cold.
- To be sure all chicken consumed is cooked thoroughly.
- If they become ill with fever, cramps, or diarrhea within 12-72 hours, seek medical assistance and then notify the Grant County Health District at (509) 754-6060.

More information about *Salmonella enteritidis* can be found at http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dbmd/diseaseinfo/salment_g.htm

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