

# What happened in Havelock North?

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## Friday 12<sup>th</sup> August - how health events unfold

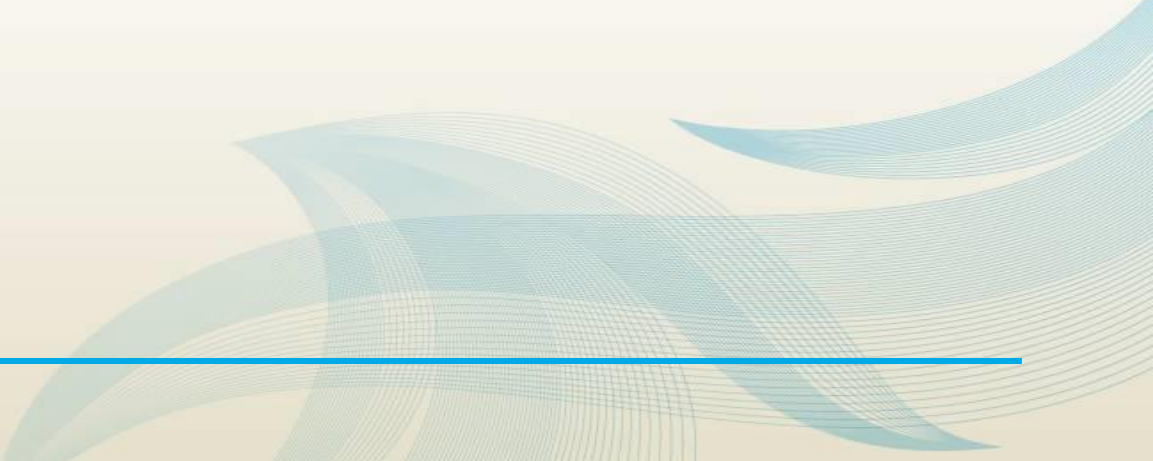
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- Overnight presentations of D&V to HBDHB Emergency Department
  - Notification of 1 confirmed case of campylobacteriosis received from rest home in Havelock North (HN)
  - Report that a pharmacy in HN had number of requests for D&V medication
  - Pharmacy contacted – confirms 10-15 people presented for D&V medication
  - Notifications come in of 5 suspected campylobacteriosis cases – all in HN
  - Water supplier (HDC) notifies positive E.coli result from HN and Hastings reticulation
  - @ 2pm – intelligence gathering - all ED presentations from HN, other rest homes in HN reporting D&V, 20% absenteeism at HN schools, D&V at boarding schools
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## Context

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- Havelock North has a population of about 14,000 people
  - Drinking water is supplied by Hastings District Council
  - The DW is sourced from aquifer under the Heretaunga plains
  - Aquifer considered to be confined and water secure from contamination
  - 2 bores in Havelock North (Brookvale Road) access the aquifer and water pumped into HN reticulation system
  - No water treatment at any point
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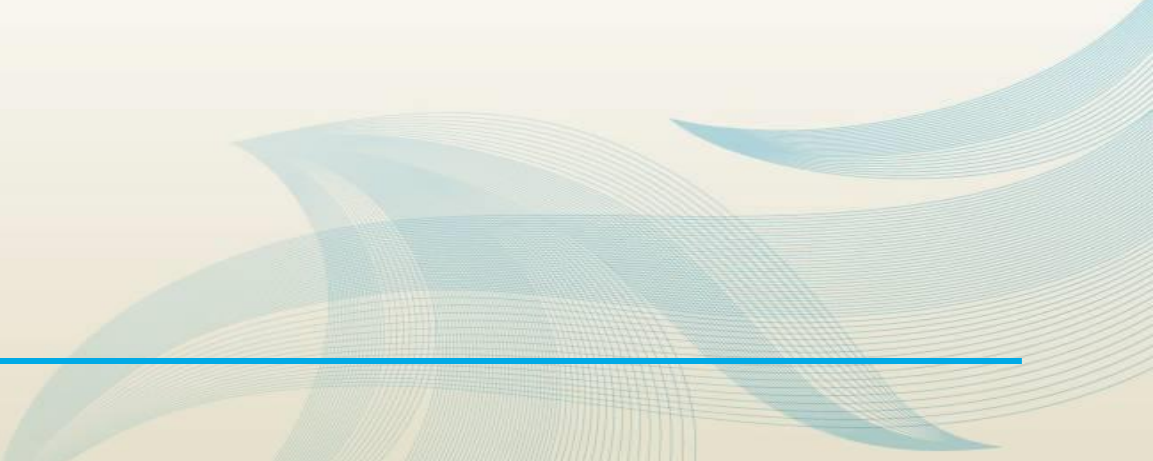






## How events unfolded....

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- It's the water !
  - Chlorination commenced
  - Boil water notice issued that evening
  - Health providers alerted and media advisory issued
  - Over the course of the next few days the level of illness continued to escalate .....
  - video
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# The impact

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## Health

- 5,500 people affected (approx. 40%)
- 1000 case notifications
- 45 hospitalised
- 3 deaths
- Ongoing sequelae for some

## Economic and business impacts

## Schools

## Drinking water management local and nationally

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## Inquiry Findings Stage 1

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### **Cause:**

- Heavy rain inundated paddocks adjacent to the bores
- Sheep faeces on the paddocks contained campylobacter
- The resulting contaminated run-off seeped through to the aquifer, most likely via a pond close by.

### **Multiple failings identified**

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## Multiple Failures

Regional Council	<b>To assess the risks of contamination</b> - resource consent processes, management of uncapped / disused bores in proximity, liaison with District council
District Council	<b>To implement high standard of care required of a public drinking water supplier</b> –previous outbreak in 1998, history of multiple transgressions, key omissions in assessment of risks, breached drinking water standards, slow to obtain report on bore head security and to carry out recommended improvements, lack of collaboration and liaison with RC
Drinking water assessors	<b>Too hands off in applying DWS</b> , should have been stricter in ensuring compliance, failure to press DC on lack of risk assessment, failure to require deeper investigation into transgressions

