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 <p>West Virginia Bureau for Public Health Your Health Your Safety Our Purpose Department of Health & Human Resources</p>	<h1>HEALTH ADVISORY</h1> <h2>#80</h2>
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INCREASED RISK OF INFECTIOUS DIARRHEA DURING WATER CRISIS

TO: West Virginia Healthcare Providers, Hospitals and other Healthcare Facilities

FROM: Letitia Tierney, MD JD, Commissioner for Public Health and State Health Officer, WVDHHR, Bureau for Public Health

DATE: January 14, 2014

LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENTS: PLEASE DISTRIBUTE TO COMMUNITY HEALTH PROVIDERS, HOSPITAL-BASED PHYSICIANS, INFECTION CONTROL PREVENTIONISTS, LABORATORY DIRECTORS, AND OTHER APPLICABLE PARTNERS

OTHER RECIPIENTS: PLEASE DISTRIBUTE TO ASSOCIATION MEMBERS, STAFF, ETC.

The contaminated water supply affecting portions of the state has resulted in the inability to have adequate hand washing, leading to increased risk of infectious diarrhea. During this time it is important to rule out infectious causes of diarrheal illnesses. The table below outlines the clinical presentation of various etiologic agents.

Clinical Presentation	Potential Syndromes/Agents to Consider
Gastroenteritis (vomiting as primary symptom; fever and/or diarrhea also may be present)	Viral gastroenteritis
Inflammatory diarrhea (invasive gastroenteritis, grossly bloody stool and fever may be present)	Bacterial gastroenteritis: <i>Shigella</i> , <i>Campylobacter</i> , or <i>Salmonella</i> species; Shiga toxin-producing <i>E.coli</i> , <i>C. difficile</i>
Persistent diarrhea (lasting ≥ 7 days)	Parasites: <i>Giardia</i> , <i>Cryptosporidium</i> , <i>C. difficile</i>

The incubation period and symptoms of diarrheal illnesses vary depending on the causative agent. Appropriate laboratory testing is needed to determine the cause and provide appropriate management and control. Stool cultures are indicated if the patient is immunocompromised, febrile, has bloody diarrhea, severe abdominal pain or if the illness is clinically severe or persistent. Stool examination for parasites is generally indicated for patient who consumed untreated surface water, who suffer chronic or persistent diarrhea, or when the diarrheal illness is unresponsive to appropriate antimicrobial therapy.

Complete guidelines for management of infectious diarrhea can be found at <http://cid.oxfordjournals.org/content/32/3/331.full.pdf+html>. To report an increase of diarrheal illness in your area, contact your local health department immediately. For more information, contact your local health department or DIDE at (800)-423-1271, ext. 1 or (304)-558-5358, ext. 1.

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