

Strollamus WTW *Cryptosporidium* detections July 2011

DWQR Inspector:
Matthew Bower

Summary of Incident

Samples of water taken at Strollamus WTW, Skye have been found to contain the microscopic organism, *Cryptosporidium* on a number of occasions.

DWQR Assessment of Cause of Incident

The current treatment process at Strollamus is quite basic, and not capable of removing *Cryptosporidium* from the water. *Cryptosporidium* occurs naturally in environmental waters as it is spread via animal faeces. Treatment with chlorine, which is used to disinfect water at Strollamus, is ineffective against *Cryptosporidium*. Since July, concentrations of *Cryptosporidium* oocysts in the water leaving the treatment works have been unusually high.

DWQR Assessment of Actions Taken by Scottish Water

Scottish Water is monitoring the quality of the supply regularly and has investigated potential sources of *Cryptosporidium* in the catchment. Nothing unusual has been found and the company suggests that very heavy rainfall may be a factor. Scottish Water has plans to improve the treatment of water supplied to the Strollamus area within the current investment period, which ends in 2015. This should remove *Cryptosporidium* from the supply. In the meantime a temporary filtration process has been installed, which has reduced the amount of *Cryptosporidium* in the supply but not removed it altogether. All detections of *Cryptosporidium* are reported to DWQR, Highland Council and NHS Highland. The Consultant in Public Health Medicine assesses data from the supply in order to determine whether to recommend that Scottish Water takes additional action to protect consumers.

This Incident is still ongoing – this assessment will be updated if necessary.