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DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

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Pago Pago, American Samoa 96799



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

American Samoa
Department of Health
MOTUSA T. NUA
Director

FARAITOFA M. UTU
Deputy Director

23 May 2014

Tom Frieden, MD, MPH
Director
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
1600 Clifton Rd, NE
Atlanta, GA 30329

Dear Dr. Frieden,

Since May 2014, the American Samoa Department of Health (AS DOH) has identified over 160 cases of diarrheal disease, including dysentery, on Tutuila Island (the largest and most populous island of the Territory). Among these cases, 14 persons have required hospitalization.

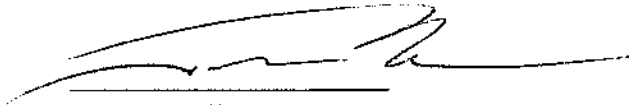
Preliminary AS DOH investigation has suggested several possible etiologies but has not yet identified either a clear cause or a source of these infections. Initial control measures have included issuing public guidance to drink boiled or bottled water, to use appropriate sanitation measures at home, and on preventing infection when caring for sick family members.

The American Samoa Department of Health (ASDOH) is requesting CDC epidemiologic and laboratory assistance in the investigation this cluster of diarrheal disease cases in American Samoa. Objectives of the investigation include to: determine the etiology of the outbreak, identify the source and/or vehicles of infection, and to inform additional control and prevention measures to reduce disease transmission and mitigate morbidity in American Samoa. The data collected will guide appropriate additional measures by the Territorial response team that includes AS DOH and government agencies managing food, water, and sanitation.

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Healthy Families ~ Healthy Communities ~ Healthy American Samoa

If there is any questions for any logistic assistance or any other concerns, please contact Deputy Director Fara Utu (684-633-7676; 684-733-4764) or Public Health Emergency Preparedness Director – Siitia Soliai-Lemus (770-1560).

Sincerely,



Motusa Tuileama Nua
Director
Department of Health