

# **Press Release**

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## **For Immediate Release**

### **UPDATE: Investigation of Possible Foodborne Illness Outbreak in Nash County**

(Nash County) — Nash County Health Department (NCHD), along with assistance from the North Carolina Division of Public Health, is continuing to investigate a potential foodborne outbreak associated with a local restaurant, Ribeyes Steakhouse in Nashville. According to Bill Hill, Nash County Health Director, staff at the health department responded to the complaints immediately after the first report last Thursday. Environmental Health staff inspected the restaurant, have collected food samples for testing, and have worked closely with the restaurant to ensure proper precautions are in place to stop transmission. Clinical staff at the health department have interviewed over 75 persons at this time and have coordinated testing through the NC State Laboratory of Public Health. Initial data indicates that sick persons ate at the restaurant beginning on Sunday, April 29<sup>th</sup>; most sick persons have experienced symptoms of nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, fatigue, headache, and fever. At this time, the specific illness and source of transmission have not been confirmed, but laboratory results are expected later this week.

Most cases seem to be mild to moderate in nature and resolve within 24-48 hours without medical treatment. The restaurant is cooperating fully in the investigation and Environmental Health staff are working with the restaurant to ensure all precautions are being taken to prevent any further illnesses.

The best way to prevent general gastrointestinal illness is to practice proper hand-washing, especially after using the restroom, changing diapers, before eating and preparing food, and when caring for a sick person. Anyone with symptoms of vomiting or diarrhea should stay hydrated by drinking plenty of fluids and remain at home until all symptoms are gone to prevent infecting others.

**For more information contact Nash County Health Department at 252-459-9819.**