# Suspected Cryptosporidium Outbreak in Brixham, Devon Under Investigation



A suspected outbreak of cryptosporidium is reportedly affecting hundreds of residents in Brixham, Devon, causing symptoms such as diarrhoea, vomiting, stomach pains, low-grade fever, and loss of appetite, typically lasting between one to two weeks. The UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) is leading an investigation into the outbreak while South West Water (SWW) has conducted tests and confirmed that the drinking water in Brixham is safe and free of the parasite.

Cryptosporidium, a parasite that inhabits the intestines and faeces of infected humans and animals, can be contracted through contaminated water, food, or swimming in affected water bodies. Despite residents reporting illnesses on social media, official water quality tests by SWW have returned clear, suggesting the water supply is not contaminated.

Local residents, including Tanya Matthews and Kayley Lewis from Higher Brixham, have shared their experiences of severe symptoms and ongoing ill health affecting entire households. Matthews and others who have fallen ill are awaiting further results and confirmation from health authorities. Totnes MP Anthony Mangnall has been informed of the situation and is making enquiries.

SWW continues to monitor water quality and supports the UKHSA in their investigation as more reports of illness emerge from nearby areas like Paignton. Authorities are advising affected individuals to boil their drinking water as a precaution and report any cases to public health officials.