# Food Poisoning Outbreak at Hillcrest Country Club Shakes Members' Confidence



On April 7, an alfresco dinner at Hillcrest Country Club in Los Angeles resulted in a significant food poisoning outbreak. Approximately 70 individuals fell ill, with over 20 hospitalized and two in critical condition due to a shigella infection. The infection was suspected to have originated from contaminated guacamole served at the event.

The elite country club, known for its high-profile members including Vice President Kamala Harris and her husband Doug Emhoff, reportedly delayed informing the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (DPH) about the outbreak. The DPH was notified five days later on April 12 and commenced an investigation immediately. An inspection of the facility did not reveal significant violations, and the investigation is ongoing.

The incident has shaken confidence among the club’s members, with some expressing anger over the management’s response. Hillcrest Country Club's management asserted their commitment to health and safety, maintaining that their kitchen adhered to the highest standards despite the outbreak.

This event coincides with ongoing legal troubles for Hillcrest. The club is facing a lawsuit from telecom heir Matthew Winnick, alleging racial discrimination, ignored reports of sexual assault, and drug abuse. The lawsuit also accuses club leadership, including President Jason Kaplan and Membership Committee Chair Brad Fuller, of improper conduct and negligence. Hillcrest denies these allegations and has stated its intention to vigorously defend against the lawsuit.