# Parasite Outbreak in Brixham Threatens Businesses



**Parasite Outbreak in Brixham: Waterborne Disease Threatens Businesses**

A significant outbreak of cryptosporidiosis in Brixham, Devon, has been confirmed by the UK Health Security Agency. As of now, 46 cases of the waterborne disease caused by a microscopic parasite have been confirmed, with over 100 additional reports of similar symptoms. Residents and businesses, totaling around 16,000, have been advised to boil and cool their tap water before using it for drinking, cooking, or cleaning teeth.

In Brixham, the South West Water (SWW) company issued a “boil water notice” following the detection of small traces of the parasite in water tests. Cryptosporidium, responsible for causing sickness and diarrhoea, can spread through contaminated water, food, and contact with infected faecal matter. The potential source of contamination has been linked to a damaged air valve near the Hillhead reservoir in a cattle field.

Businesses in Brixham are experiencing significant financial losses due to the outbreak. Michael Smith, co-owner of the Venus Cafe, reported a 40% drop in business and predicted losses of thousands of pounds. The outbreak's impact includes customer cancellations at local establishments and concerns over the safety of the water supply.

Health officials warn that further cases may emerge over the next 10 days to two weeks, owing to the disease's incubation period. Residents are urged to continue following boil water recommendations to mitigate the risk of infection. SWW has apologized for the disruption and assured continuous efforts to resolve the situation, while the UK Health Security Agency and the Drinking Water Inspectorate conduct thorough investigations into the cause and spread of the outbreak.