

**For immediate release
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Health minister must provide list of facilities where tainted meat used

VICTORIA – As the listeriosis outbreak continues it is imperative that the Campbell government take the lead on informing the public of all health care and seniors facilities that may have used any of the tainted meat products on the recall list, Opposition health critic Adrian Dix said today.

“What we know is that people whose health may be already compromised are more susceptible to the listeriosis bacteria,” said Dix. “This means that hospital patients and seniors are most at risk.

“It is important that people who may have come in contact with the tainted products are aware of it. This information will be vital in monitoring symptoms and side-effects,” said Dix.

Vancouver Island Health Authority has already produced such a list, including all hospitals and long-term care facilities that may have purchased and potentially used the tainted meats. But not all health authorities are being as responsive.

“Last Friday, I called on all Health Authorities to release a list of facilities that served meat now on recall lists across BC. This has not yet happened and should,” said Dix.

Dix said that VIHA has set the example and the Health Minister should ensure that the other health authorities follow suit and provide complete lists of all health and seniors facilities. “It is vital that people have all the information they can regarding this outbreak.

“So far the trickle of information has been sporadic and disorganized,” said Dix. “The health minister can, and must, assure a coordinated response, telling the public what facilities served the meats and whether or not they have all been disposed of now.

“Giving people accurate and complete information is good public health policy,” said Dix. “There is no reason to keep the list of facilities secret.”

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