

MEDIA RELEASE

Update on investigations into Death Cap Mushroom poisoning

As part of the Health Directorate's ongoing investigations into the recent Death Cap Mushroom cases, information has been provided to the Directorate to suggest that the food containing the mushrooms was prepared in a commercial kitchen.

The Health Directorate has been advised that the consumption of this food was for a private meal and no food containing the mushrooms was provided to the general public or anyone outside of this small group. The mushrooms were provided by one of the group specifically for this meal.

The Health Directorate has inspected the business premises to ensure that no mushrooms remain on the site.

The food business has not reopened since the New Year and there has been no risk of exposure of the general public to potentially toxic mushrooms since this occurrence.

Expert advice has confirmed that there is no risk of the transmission of the toxins through cooking implements or pots. Mushrooms must be consumed by an individual in order to cause illness.

ACT Health would like to clarify that the person initially treated for mushroom poisoning in Manly Hospital and now in Royal Prince Alfred Hospital was not part of this group. While there were four people present at the meal of mushrooms in Canberra, one of them did not consume the meal and remains well. It has now become apparent that the fourth case of poisoning is unrelated to the other three.

ACT Health expresses its condolences to the family, friends and community of the people who shared this meal of mushroom. The surviving members of this group are clearly distraught by this tragic event.

Statement Ends: 5 January, 2012

Media Contact: Hasnah Scheduling 6205 0837 (w) 0417 236 835 (m)