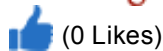


Tainted water, food kills 13 in FCT

By Judd-Leonard Okafor | Publish Date: Feb 27 2016 5:00AM | Updated Date: Feb 26 2016 10:49PM

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The FCT Primary Health Care Development Agency has confirmed 13 people died in an outbreak of food poisoning in Saburi, an Abuja municipal community. Two more people died on Friday, and investigations into their deaths got underway on Saturday.

The agency's Executive Secretary, Dr. Rilwanu Mohammed, said eight others, including a five-year-old survived and are receiving treatment. A species of the organism *Clostridium papyrengis* has been blamed for the outbreak.

The organism, known to cause inflammation of the digestive system, or gastroenteritis, easily gets into food, water and the soil. Experts believe the outbreak came from contaminated food and water in the community.

And tests of blood, ground water and well water samples by the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control have confirmed contamination in water and soil. Most of the dead had fever, stomach ache, headache and vomited, all symptoms of Typhoid fever, and died "within a day or two following symptoms," said Mohammed.

All dead did not live in close proximity. Officials have begun to surveillance and investigation. On February 20, two more people died, including Fatima, a two-year-old girl who showed symptoms a day before and died two hours later. She was weak, vomited blood while hospitalised in a private clinic and then died.

Another resident, Odera, 19, died the same night after bouts of headache, abdominal pain, diarrhoea, spontaneous stool, vomiting and weakness, which started on February 15, officials told Daily Trust. The survivors, including Ibrahim, 5, are hospitalised at Comprehensive Primary Health Centre in Dei-Dei.

Ibrahim has had headache, abdominal pain, fever and has vomited and passed stool with blood and mucus since February 20. Officials say he's "responding to treatment" but samples collected from him are yet to get to laboratory for testing.