



Water Treatment Scenario (High School):

A community has a baseball tournament that lasts a week. Teams from the surrounding area come to the community and either stay in the hotel, camp out or stay in RVs. To facilitate the increased numbers of people in the community, port-o-potties are set up around the campsite and ball diamonds. There are also hand-washing stations set up outside the facilities. The company that operates the port-o-potties hires extra workers to clean out the port-o-potties every night and restock the hand washing stations during the day. The new staff is swamped by the increased workload and decides to empty their septic trucks into the river (the drinking water source for the community), rather than into the proper disposal area, because the river is closer and they can get more work done in a shorter period.

As the ball tournament begins to wind down, people begin to get sick. At first, three kids get sick and are taken to hospital. Then more and more people become ill. Over the next week, the number of sick people rises and includes almost everyone who was at the ball tournament and most of the community. There are no deaths but the final count of people who became sick is over 1000.

Your group will act as a task force and include people from the health district, environmental experts, the water treatment plant manager, the mayor, the port-o-potty owner, and residents of the community. Your group must assess the situation and come up with a plan to identify the source of the outbreak, the treatment for the outbreak and the outcome of the outbreak. Your plan is to be submitted in writing at the end of the class.