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Two dairy farms in the uThukela District test positive for listeria

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THE uThukela District Municipality has confirmed that two dairy farms in the region have tested positive for listeria monocytogenes.

But municipal spokesperson Jabulani Mkhonza said reports that six people had been diagnosed with listeriosis

in the district were old cases and not recent. The Dairy Standards Agency conducted testing at the farms.

"It has not been confirmed yet that the bacterium found in this milk is the one responsible for the outbreak (ST6)," said Mkhonza.

"Another batch of samples has been taken at the dairy farms and sent to the

National Institute for Communicable Diseases for analysis. Dairy farms that have tested positive were issued with compliance notices and prohibition notices to dispose of all the milk and stop the milk production process."

He said continuous monitoring and health education by the municipality is being done so "communities make

informed food choices".

"Communities are urged to use pasteurised milk as well as safe water, to cook food thoroughly, separate raw and cooked food and to keep food at safe temperatures. At present we are not in a position to name the farms that tested positive for listeria but our environmental health officials are working

closely with them to monitor the situation," said Mkhonza.

The KwaZulu-Natal Department of Health's spokesperson Ncumisa Mafunda said they were awaiting the weekly consolidated Situational Analysis Report from the NICD, due for publication tomorrow.

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