

## High Cost of Foreign Holidays Exposed

This has been a summer of shame!

Holidaymakers have been exposed to poor health & safety standards resulting in wide spread illnesses such as, Norovirus, Salmonella, Entamoeba Histolytica, Shigella Flex, Campylobacter and Cryptosporidium.

Many returning British holidaymakers are unaware that they may have been affected, many are told that they have 'exposed' to a virus within the resort. HolidayTravelWatch is concerned that many holidaymakers are returning to work, some into the food handling or caring professions, without seeking medical assistance!

The volume of complaints received by HTW reveals a gift to the nation from the travel industry; a gift of disease. Is the lack of proper safety audits from travel companies corporately responsible? Is it not time to ask what the cost to the nation is from these so called 'holiday illnesses'? Within our article, 'The Shameful Cost of Holiday Illness', HolidayTravelWatch attempts to provide the answer.

It uses the base point that 30 million package Holidays are sold each year. Providing a conservative figure, that only 5% suffer an illness of some description, this produces 1.5 million suffering holidaymakers. It is then estimated that some 315,000 British Holidaymakers return with notifiable diseases, or serious illness. It is estimated that the annual cost to the British Taxpayer is £25m. The cost to British Industry is estimated at £185m.

How can a nation tolerate such a social or financial strain without redress? It is clear that the time has come for debate. Health Providers, Insurers, Employers and even Politicians must consider this problem. 'Corporate Irresponsibility' should not come at such a high personal and financial price to the nation.