

Cryptosporidiosis



Clinical Description:

Cryptosporidiosis is a diarrheal disease caused by microscopic parasites of the genus *Cryptosporidium*. The most common species that infect humans are *Cryptosporidium parvum* and *Cryptosporidium hominis*. Symptoms can include watery diarrhea, stomach cramps, fever, nausea, weight loss, and vomiting. Symptoms usually last two weeks or less; however, symptoms can subside and then return for up to 30 days.

Incubation Period:

Symptoms usually begin 7 days, range of 1 - 12 days, after a person becomes infected.

Mode of Transmission:

Cryptosporidium is transmitted by the fecal-oral route.

Period of Communicability:

Some people with cryptosporidiosis may not have any symptoms, but they can still pass the disease to others. After infection, people can shed *Cryptosporidium* in their stool for months. People with weakened immune systems may not be able to clear the infection. This may lead to prolonged disease and even death.

Exclusion/Reporting:

Symptomatic persons diagnosed with *Cryptosporidium* or symptomatic persons linked by person, place, or time to a case are excluded from attending school until:

- Asymptomatic for at least 24 hours
- Disease prevention education provided by the local health department
- Completion of antiparasitic therapy

For more information on laws and rules regarding cryptosporidiosis see the ISDH Communicable Disease Reporting Rule (410 IAC 1-2.3-61) at: [http://www.in.gov/isdh/files/comm_dis_rule\(1\).pdf](http://www.in.gov/isdh/files/comm_dis_rule(1).pdf).

Prevention/Care:

Encourage frequent hand washing, particularly after using the restroom, assisting someone with diarrhea and/or vomiting, after contact with animals, after swimming, and before and after food preparation. Please refer to the ISDH Handwashing Campaign at <http://www.in.gov/isdh/24036.htm>. Enforce exclusion of ill students and staff members.

Outbreaks:

According to the ISDH Communicable Disease Reporting Rule (410 IAC 1-2.3) the definition of an outbreak means cases of disease occurring in a community, region, or particular population at a rate in excess of that which is normally expected. A Cryptosporidiosis outbreak is two or more cases of a similar illness shown by an investigation to have resulted from a common exposure, such as water at a common source. If an outbreak is suspected and/or documented, contact your local health department. For additional information and recommendations regarding

the preparation for, and the management of an outbreak situation in a school setting, see Appendix A, "Managing an Infectious Disease Outbreak In a School Setting."

Other Resources:

Indiana State Department of Health Quick Facts Page (found on disease/condition page):

<http://bit.ly/12IJLfD>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC):

<http://www.cdc.gov/parasites/crypto/>