

Cyclosporiasis FACTSHEET

Cyclospora Infection

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What is Cyclosporiasis?

Cyclosporiasis is a diarrheal disease caused by a parasite that infects the intestinal tract.

Who gets Cyclosporiasis?

People of all ages can become ill with Cyclosporiasis. In the past, Cyclosporiasis was usually found in people who traveled in developing countries. However, today people can be infected worldwide, including the United States.

What are the symptoms of Cyclosporiasis?

The symptoms of cyclosporiasis include watery diarrhea, with frequent, sometimes explosive, bowel movements, loss of appetite, loss of weight, bloating, increased gas, stomach cramps, nausea, vomiting, muscle aches, and fatigue. Fever is rare. Some people who are infected with Cyclospora may not have any symptoms at all.

How is Cyclosporiasis spread?

Cyclosporiasis is acquired by people eating or drinking food or water that was contaminated with stool from an infected person. It is unlikely that Cyclospora is spread directly from one person to another. It is not known whether or not animals can be infected and pass the infection to people.

How soon do symptoms appear?

The time between becoming infected and becoming sick is usually about one week but can take longer.

Is a person with Cyclosporiasis contagious?

No, it is unlikely that cyclosporiasis can be passed from one person to another.

How is Cyclosporiasis treated?

Cyclosporiasis can be treated with antibiotics. People who do not receive treatment may have their symptoms go away only to come back again. Immunocompromised individuals should consult with their physician if they believe they have cyclosporiasis.

Should a person with Cyclosporiasis be excluded from work or school?

It is not necessary to exclude a person with cyclosporiasis from work or school.

Can Cyclosporiasis be prevented?

Cyclosporiasis can be prevented by:

- Avoiding water or food that may be contaminated with stool.
- Thoroughly washing all fresh produce and vegetables before eating
- Washing hands well and often

Want more information?

Information about Cyclosporiasis and other related health topics can be found at the website www.cdc.gov. The DC Department of Health promotes the health and safety of the District residents. For additional information, please call 202-442-9371.

Revised 09-04

