

Your child may have been exposed to:

Cryptosporidiosis

Cryptosporidiosis is an infection of the intestines caused by a parasite.

If you think your child has Cryptosporidiosis:

- Tell your childcare provider or call the school.
- **Need to stay home?**

Childcare:

Yes, until diarrhea has stopped.

School:

No, unless the child is not feeling well and/or has diarrhea and needs to use the bathroom frequently.

In addition, anyone with cryptosporidiosis should not use swimming beaches, pools, water parks, spas, or hot tubs for 2 weeks after diarrhea has stopped.

Symptoms

Your child may have watery diarrhea, vomiting, and fever. Your child may not be hungry or may complain about stomach pain. Illness may last up to 10 days.

If your child is infected, it may take 2 to 14 days for symptoms to start.

Spread

- By eating or drinking contaminated food or beverages.
- By touching contaminated hands, surfaces, or objects.
- By handling pets and farm animals.

Contagious Period

The illness can spread as long as *Cryptosporidium* parasites are in the stool. This may be 2 weeks or longer.

Call your Healthcare Provider

- ◆ If anyone in your home has symptoms. There is a medical test to detect the parasite. There is a treatment; however, most people get better without any specific treatment.
- ◆ Ask how to prevent dehydration. Your child may lose a lot of water due to vomiting and diarrhea.

Prevention

- Wash hands after using the toilet and changing diapers and before preparing food or eating. Your child may need help with handwashing.
- Clean and disinfect any objects that come in contact with stool. This includes toilets (potty chairs), sinks, toys, and diaper changing areas. Use a product that kills germs.
- Pets and farm animals (particularly cattle) can cause cryptosporidiosis. Wash your hands after touching pets and farm animals.
- DO NOT swallow water when swimming in lakes, swimming pools, hot tubs or fountains. Spread can occur through contaminated water.

For more information, call Hennepin County HSPHD-Epidemiology at 612-543-5230 or call your local health department.