

What is cryptosporidiosis and how is it spread?

*Cryptosporidia* is a parasite that lives in the intestinal tract of humans and animals and is passed through stool. People can become ill by eating, drinking or placing objects into their mouth that have been contaminated with stool from an infected person or animal.

Prevention: Exclusion of Symptomatic Children and Staff

- Exclude children and/or staff with diarrhea from day care, or from working in a day care, until diarrhea stops.
- Isolate ill children from their peers until a parent arrives for pick-up.
- Allow children and/or staff to return when they have been free from diarrhea for 24 hours.

Other Prevention and Control Measures

- Follow recommended diapering procedures.
- Wash hands with soap and water after every diaper change, even if wearing gloves.
- Keep diaper-changing areas separate from children's play areas.
- Refrain from using swimming pools, water tables and other water-based activities while the outbreak is ongoing.
- Work with children so they wash hands thoroughly with soap and water after using the toilet and before handling or eating food.
- Keep diapering and food-handling areas and responsibilities separated.
- Put away toys that cannot be disinfected until the outbreak is over.
- Clean and disinfect faucet handles, toilet handles, toys, table tops, and high chairs more frequently than usual.
- Handle soiled clothing appropriately.
  - Store clothing in a labeled plastic bag/container and return home with parents.
  - Instruct parents to wash hands carefully after handling soiled items.

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