

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. *Cryptosporidium* can be transmitted through swimming pools and lakes when swimmers swallow water that has been contaminated with stool from an infected person or animal.

Recommendations for Pool Operators:

- Encourage parents to provide regular bathroom breaks for their children.
- To prevent transmission of germs, ensure that the bathrooms are clean, that they are stocked with toilet paper, and that they have ample soap for hand washing.
- Have a written fecal accident response policy.
- Keep records of all fecal accidents, chlorine and pH level measurements.

Swimming pool facilities should post the following recommendations for patrons to promote healthy swimming behaviors:

- Take a shower before swimming and wash your child thoroughly (especially the rear end) with soap and water before swimming.
- Diapered children should wear appropriate diapers designed specifically for swimming.
- Change diapers in the bathroom, not at the poolside.
- Wash hands after using the toilet or changing diapers and before preparing and eating food.
- Don't swim when you have diarrhea. Persons with diarrhea should wait 2 weeks after diarrhea stops to resume swimming.
- Avoid swallowing pool water.

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