

Cryptosporidiosis

Merlin reporting code = 13680
Case report form (CRF): [Risk Factor for Cryptosporidium](#)
MERLIN EXTENDED DATA OPTIONAL

Clinical description

An illness characterized by diarrhea, abdominal cramps, loss of appetite (anorexia), nausea, or vomiting. Infected persons may be asymptomatic (asymptomatic persons are not considered clinical compatible).

Laboratory criteria for case classification

Confirmatory:

Evidence of *Cryptosporidium* organisms or DNA in stool, intestinal fluid, tissue samples, biopsy specimens, or other biological sample by certain laboratory methods with a high positive predictive value (PPV), (e.g., direct fluorescent antibody [DFA] test, polymerase chain reaction [PCR], enzyme immunoassay [EIA], or light microscopy of stained specimen).

Presumptive:

Detection of *Cryptosporidium* antigen by screening test method, such as immunochromatographic card/rapid card test; or a laboratory test of unknown method.

Case classification

Confirmed:

A person with confirmatory laboratory evidence.

Probable:

- A person with presumptive laboratory evidence. When the diagnostic test method on a laboratory test result for *Cryptosporidium* cannot be determined, the case can only be classified as probable.
- OR
- A clinically compatible illness (diarrhea must be present) in a person who is epidemiologically linked to a confirmed case.

Comments

Persons who have a diarrheal illness and are epidemiologically linked to a probable case because that individual was only diagnosed with cryptosporidiosis by an immunochromatographic card/rapid test or unknown test method cannot be classified as probable cases.

The disease can be prolonged and life-threatening in severely immunocompromised persons. When available, species designation and molecular characterization should be reported.

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