

**Mission:**

To protect, promote & improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county & community efforts.



**Rick Scott**  
Governor

**John H. Armstrong, MD, FACS**  
State Surgeon General & Secretary

**Vision:** To be the **Healthiest State** in the Nation

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
July 26, 2013

**Contact:** DOH Communications  
(850) 245-4111

### DOH OFFICIALS INVESTIGATING CYCLOSPORA CASES

**TALLAHASSEE** – Florida Department of Health (DOH) officials are investigating 23 cases of *Cyclospora* infection in the state. Caused by a single-celled parasite that infects the small intestine, *Cyclospora* usually causes diarrhea with frequent bowel movements. At this time, there have been no patients hospitalized in Florida.

Other common symptoms of *Cyclospora* infection include loss of appetite, weight loss, stomach cramps/pain, bloating, increased gas, nausea and fatigue. Vomiting, body aches, headache, fever and other flu-like symptoms may be noted.

*Cyclospora* is most commonly spread by ingesting water or uncooked food that was contaminated with human feces. *Cyclospora* infections have been previously linked to various types of fresh vegetables and berries. *Cyclospora* is not passed directly from one person to another.

“Epidemiologists across Florida, in coordination with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, are working to identify the source of these *Cyclospora* cases,” said Interim State Epidemiologist Dr. Carina Blackmore. “Staff are re-interviewing those affected to carefully examine food items and the ingredients those patients were exposed to.”

Onset dates of *Cyclospora* cases in Florida range from the beginning of June to mid-July. Currently, there are no links to common restaurants found among the 23 cases, as in other states. Additionally, no common food items or events, like a social gathering, have been identified among those affected.

For more information on *Cyclospora*, visit [www.doh.state.fl.us](http://www.doh.state.fl.us) or <http://www.cdc.gov/parasites/cyclosporiasis/>.

DOH protects, promotes and improves the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county and community efforts.

Follow us on Twitter at @HealthyFla and on Facebook. For news story ideas, interviews, videos and more from DOH Communications visit the DOH Online Newsroom <http://newsroom.doh.state.fl.us/>.

###