Cryptosporidiosis

Background
An illness characterized by diarrhea, abdominal cramps, anorexia (loss of appetite), or vomiting. Asymptomatic infections do occur, but asymptomatic persons are not considered clinically compatible. The disease can be prolonged and life-threatening in severely immunocompromised persons.

Clinical criteria for case classification
Both of the following:
- Diarrhea
- And one or more of the following:
  - Abdominal cramps,
  - Or anorexia (loss of appetite),
  - Or vomiting.

Laboratory criteria for case classification
Confirmaotory:
One or more of the following:
- Demonstration of Cryptosporidium by microscopy and staining,
- Or detection of Cryptosporidium-specific nucleic acid by polymerase chain reaction (PCR),
- Or detection of Cryptosporidium by enzyme immunoassay (EIA),
- Or detection of Cryptosporidium by immunofluorescence assay (IF) (e.g., direct fluorescent antibody [DFA], indirect fluorescent antibody [IFA]).

Presumptive:
One or more of the following:
- Detection of Cryptosporidium antigen by immunochromatographic card/rapid card test,
- Or detection of Cryptosporidium by unspecified immunoassay (IA),
- Or a laboratory test of unknown method.

Epidemiological criteria for case classification
A person who is epidemiologically linked to a confirmed cryptosporidiosis case.

Case classification
Confirmed:
A person with confirmatory laboratory evidence.

Probable:
Either of the following:
- A person with presumptive laboratory evidence
- Or a clinically compatible illness in a person with epidemiological criteria.

Criteria to distinguish a new case from previous reports
Not applicable.
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 card test or unknown test method cannot be classified as probable cases.

When available, species designation and molecular characterization should be reported.

In cases linked to animals, testing of asymptomatic animals may be considered. Please call the Bureau of Epidemiology at (850) 245-4401 to discuss.

Return to Table of Contents