

Merlin disease code: 13680 Cryptosporidiosis

[Paper case report form](#)  
Merlin extended data optional

## Background

Cryptosporidiosis is 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, anorexia (loss of appetite), or vomiting.

## Laboratory criteria for case classification

### Confirmatory:

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 criteria.

### Probable:

Either of the following:

- A person with presumptive laboratory criteria
- **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.