



ST. CLAIR COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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Public Health Advisory

DATE: August 27, 2010
TO: St. Clair County School Superintendents
FROM: St. Clair County Health Department
SUBJECT: Cryptosporidiosis – Standard Control Measures

The purpose of this memorandum is to notify you that an increase in Cryptosporidiosis (Crypto) has been noticed in the community and to provide information about Crypto, including recommendations for routine Crypto control measures.

Crypto is a gastrointestinal illness caused by the parasite *Cryptosporidium*. The major symptom of Crypto is diarrhea, often described as watery. Other symptoms may include abdominal cramps, nausea, vomiting, fever, fatigue, and weight loss. Symptoms usually occur about a week after exposure, but can begin as soon as one day or as late as 12 days after exposure. Symptoms usually subside in one to two weeks, but can come and go for up to 30 days.

School settings have an important role in helping to prevent the spread of Crypto. Because Crypto is excreted in feces, anything that gets contaminated by Crypto-containing feces can potentially spread the infection, including contaminated food, water, or objects (e.g., toys). It is important that schools implement routine control measures to prevent transmission among attendees and staff. If an outbreak of Crypto occurs, the local health department will provide recommendations for intensified control measures which also will need to be implemented at that time.

Information about cryptosporidiosis, prevention and control measures can be obtained on the Centers for Disease Prevention and Control website:
<http://www.cdc.gov>.

Please feel free to contact our Communicable Disease Department if you have any additional questions or concerns at (618) 233-6175, ext. 4434 from 8am - 4pm, Monday through Friday.

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