



PREVENT. PROMOTE. PROTECT.

Hamilton County Disease Prevention  
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Dear Parents, Childcare Providers and Staff:

During the last three weeks we have seen a marked increase in the number of people with Cryptosporidiosis (Crypto) in our community. Most of these cases are among young children. Crypto is a parasitic disease that can cause loose, watery diarrhea, stomach cramps, nausea, and a slight fever. While it is easily spread by swallowing water (either from swimming or drinking) contaminated by animal or human feces, it can also be transmitted from person to person if proper hand washing and sanitary procedures are not followed, especially in settings such as homes and daycare centers where diapers are changed regularly.

Local health departments want to keep parents and childcare providers aware of this recent rise in Crypto cases; and assist childcare facilities in preventing the further spread of these illnesses in their programs and in the community. It is important to stop the spread of Crypto quickly, since young children can have more severe illness than others. Please discontinue all water-related activities, except sprinklers used in areas that do not allow water to pool.

Please monitor children closely for any symptoms of diarrhea and supervise their handwashing after diaper changes and toileting. If you have two or more persons in your facility with diarrhea, please contact your local health department. Exclude children and staff who have undiagnosed diarrhea and encourage them to see their physician for a stool test. Those who have been diagnosed with Crypto should be excluded from daycare for at least 3 days following the last bout of diarrhea. If the diarrhea returns after the child has returned to daycare, the child should again be excluded.

Children and pregnant women should take special care to avoid the dehydration from diarrhea caused by Crypto. People who are ill with Crypto should avoid close contact with persons with weakened immune systems (i.e., those undergoing cancer treatment or people with HIV/AIDS) because if they become infected, Crypto can become a life-threatening disease.

**To prevent the spread of the disease, everyone should thoroughly wash their hands after using the bathroom or changing diapers, and before preparing or eating food. Because Crypto can be spread so easily through water; people infected with Crypto should avoid swimming while having diarrhea and for two weeks after the diarrhea stops. Swimming should be avoided even if the pool is properly chlorinated because Crypto is highly resistant to chlorine.**

Thank you for your cooperation. If you have further questions, please contact your local health department for assistance.

Additional information about crypto can be found at this CDC link:  
<http://www.cdc.gov/parasites/crypto/>

