



PUBLIC HEALTH FACT SHEET

CRYPTOSPORIDIOSIS (CRYPTO)

Dear Parent:

This is to bring to your attention that a case of Cryptosporidiosis has been reported for a student in your child's classroom and to provide you with information about this disease. If your child exhibits any of the symptoms described below, it is recommended that you consult your healthcare provider or the Department of Health in Duval County Epidemiology Program at 904-253-1850.

What is Cryptosporidiosis (Crypto)?

- Diarrheal illness caused by microscopic parasites
- Most common cause of waterborne illness in people in the United States

What are the symptoms of Crypto?

- Diarrhea
- Loose or watery stool
- Stomach cramps
- Slight fever

How is Crypto spread?

- You can become infected after accidentally swallowing water or food that has been contaminated with the feces from infected humans or animals.

How can Crypto be prevented?

- Wash hands thoroughly with soap and water especially after using the toilet, changing diapers, handling animals, and before preparing or eating food
- Avoid swimming in pools, lakes, and other recreational water if you have diarrhea (especially children in diapers with diarrhea)

Implications for school

- Exclude students or staff
- May return if they are fever and diarrhea free for 24 hours without the use of anti-diarrheal or fever reducing medication

Resources:

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention:
www.cdc.gov

American Academy of Pediatrics:
<https://healthychildren.org/English/health-issues/conditions/abdominal/Pages/FoodPoisoning-and-Food-Contamination.aspx>