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Health Director  
(402) 444-7471

September 8, 2015

To: Douglas County Health Care Providers  
From: Adi M. Pour, PhD, Health Director

Administration & Finance  
(402) 444-7216

Re: Increased reports of *Cryptosporidium* infection in Douglas County

Emergency Preparedness  
(402) 444-7213

Communicable Disease  
Epidemiology  
(402) 444-7214

The Douglas County Health Department (DCHD) has investigated 31 confirmed and probable cases of *Cryptosporidium* infection in 2015, 25 of which have been reported since August 1, with a median age of 11 years and a range of 1 to 38. DCHD is investigating cases to identify common exposures and educating patients on the disease and how to prevent spread to others. Several case-patients reported attending daycare or visiting recreational water parks/pools while symptomatic. DCHD is working with these facilities to appropriately treat water and prevent transmission.

Retail Food  
(402) 444-7480

Health Promotion  
(402) 444-7475

*Cryptosporidium* is a protozoan parasite affecting the gastrointestinal tract of humans and animals. It is shed in the feces in the form of an "oocyst," which has a hard shell to protect it from the environment. It can survive normal chlorination levels in pools.

Lead Poisoning  
Prevention Program  
(402) 444-7825

Symptoms include watery diarrhea, nausea, vomiting, and fever and may come and go for up to 30 days in some people. Symptoms usually resolve within 2 weeks in an immunocompetent person, but may cause severe and prolonged disease in persons with weakened immune systems, such as those with AIDS or those taking drugs that suppress the immune system.

Public Health Clinic &  
Immunizations  
(402) 444-6163

STD Control  
(402) 444-7750

Diagnosis of cryptosporidiosis is made by examination of stool samples. Because detection of *Cryptosporidium* can be difficult, patients may be asked to submit several stool samples over several days. Testing may include molecular methods (e.g. Biofire film array panel), modified acid-fast stain, or antigen tests. However, we recommend checking with your laboratory for specific instructions and indicating that you would like testing for *Cryptosporidium*.

Sanitation Control  
(402) 444-7481

Sanitary Engineering  
(402) 444-7485

WIC  
(402) 444-1770

Patients with cryptosporidiosis should be advised to avoid swimming pools and splash parks while symptomatic and to follow meticulous hand hygiene, especially after changing the diapers of symptomatic children. Children should not attend child care with diarrhea.

Civic Center Location  
1819 Farnam Street, H01  
Health Data  
(402) 546-0847

Vital Statistics  
(402) 444-7205

More information on cryptosporidiosis: <http://www.cdc.gov/parasites/crypto/>

Health Center Location  
4102 Woolworth Av.  
Laboratory Services  
(402) 444-7496

Please call the DCHD Communicable Disease Epidemiology Section at 402.444.7214 if you have any questions or need to report a case.