

"To improve the health of our communities by identifying and assuring sustainable solutions to community health issues."

**HEALTH ALERT NETWORK
HEALTH DISTRICT 4**

**UPDATED CRYPTOSPORIDIUM ADVISORY FOR HEALTH CARE
PROVIDERS**

Central District Health Department Urges Health Care Providers to Watch for
Cryptosporidium

August 9, 2012

Since the beginning of August, Central District Health Department (CDHD) has received reports of 21 cases of cryptosporidiosis. Many of these reports have been associated with swimming in local pools. *Cryptosporidium parvum* infections can spread quickly from person-to-person in recreational water settings so CDHD continues to urge providers to be suspicious of cryptosporidiosis in individuals presenting with watery diarrhea with a history of exposures to recreational water sources.

In order to prevent further spread of infection, please encourage any patients with cryptosporidiosis-like symptoms to refrain from swimming or other recreational water activities for at least two after diarrhea stops. CDHD will be issuing a public press release later today echoing this message.

Testing

If you order stool testing for cryptosporidiosis, *Cryptosporidium* should be specifically requested since many labs do not include it in routine stool testing panels.

Treatment

Most people with diarrhea caused by *Cryptosporidium parvum* will recover without treatment. However, nitazoxanide (Alinia®) is FDA-approved for treatment of cryptosporidiosis in immunocompetent individuals ≥1 year of age (see Table 1).

Table 1. Alinia® Dosage in Immunocompetent Individuals	
Adult	500 mg BID x 3 days
Pediatric	1-3 years: 100 mg BID x 3 days 4-11 years: 200 mg BID x 3 days

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Serving Valley, Elmore, Boise, and Ada Counties

Ada / Boise County Office
707 N. Armstrong Pl.
Boise, ID 83704
Enviro. Health: 327-7499
Reproductive Health: 327-7400
Immunizations: 327-7450
WIC: 327-7488
FAX: 327-8500

Elmore County Office
520 E. 8th St. North
Mountain Home, ID 83647
Enviro. Health: 587-9225
Family Health: 587-4407
WIC: 587-4409
FAX: 587-3521

Valley County Office
703 N. 1st St.
McCall, ID 83638
Ph. 634-7194
FAX: 634-2174

Infection Prevention Measures

- Individuals with cryptosporidiosis should refrain from entering recreational water facilities for at least two weeks after diarrhea stops.
- Thorough and vigorous hand washing before preparing meals, after using the toilet and after changing diapers is essential in preventing person-to-person transmission.
- *Cryptosporidium parvum* is highly resistant to chlorine bleach. A 3% hydrogen peroxide solution should be used to disinfect contaminated surfaces.

Reporting

Cryptosporidiosis is a reportable disease in Idaho. Cases of cryptosporidiosis should be reported by telephone to the Office of Communicable Disease Control at (208) 327-8625 or faxed to (208) 327-7100.

More Information

For additional information regarding cryptosporidiosis including treatment options go to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website at: www.cdc.gov/parasites/crypto.