

CRYPTOSPORIDIOSIS

Cryptosporidiosis is an illness caused by the coccidian protozoa *Cryptosporidium parvum* characterized by diarrhea, abdominal cramps, anorexia, low-grade fever, nausea and vomiting. Infected persons may be asymptomatic. The disease can be prolonged and life-threatening in severely immunocompromised persons. Transmission is fecal-oral and includes person to person, animal to person, waterborne, and foodborne routes. *Cryptosporidia* parasites occur worldwide affecting humans, cattle, poultry, reptiles and many other vertebrate species.

Laboratory Criteria for Confirmation:

- Demonstration of *Cryptosporidium* oocysts in stool, **OR**
- Demonstration of *Cryptosporidium* in small bowel biopsy or other clinical specimens, **OR**
- Demonstration of *Cryptosporidium* antigen in stool by a specific immunodiagnostic test such as enzyme-linked immunosorbent assays (ELISA).

Case Classification

Confirmed: A case that is laboratory confirmed.

Probable: A clinically compatible case that is epidemiologically linked to a confirmed case.

Epidemiology

Kentucky	2002	Rate per 100,000	U.S. Rate (2001) per 100,000
Cases	10	0.2	1.34

In 2002, the ages of reported cases ranged from 11 months to 53 years of age. They were reported from 7 different counties in five districts.