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**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Kentucky 2002</th>
<th>Rate per 100,000</th>
<th>U.S. Rate (2001) per 100,000</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cases</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td>1.34</td>
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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.