



DALLAS COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

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To: Health Care Providers
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HEALTH ADVISORY: Cryptosporidiosis

The Dallas County Department of Health and Human Services (DCHHS) is now receiving increasing reports of persons with *Cryptosporidium* infections in Dallas County. Clusters of infections possibly associated with area recreational water facilities are being investigated.

Cryptosporidiosis can be contracted by swallowing contaminated water or food, and typically causes watery diarrhea and abdominal cramping. Symptoms often self-resolve after 1-2 weeks. Immunocompromised individuals are particularly at high risk for severe persisting illness from infection, and may not respond to treatment with nitazoxanide.

Given the markedly increased rate of *Cryptosporidium* infections noted in Dallas County recently, DCHHS is recommending that immune-suppressed persons refrain from swimming in public pools or recreational water parks at this time.

When cryptosporidiosis is suspected, stool samples should be sent specifically for *Cryptosporidium* antigen testing and/or stains for *Cryptosporidium*. For improved yield of testing, up to 3 separate stool specimens may need to be submitted. Since the oocytes of the parasite may be shed in stool even after resolution of illness, please remind all patients to not swim *for at least 2 weeks after diarrhea resolves*.

Additional information is available at <http://www.cdc.gov/crypto/factsheets/infect.html>. Please report cases of confirmed and suspected cryptosporidiosis to DCHHS at (214) 819-2004. Thank you.

Categories of Health Alert messages:

- **Health Advisory:** Provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action.