

## Crypto Notice from Franklin County Public Health August 11, 2016

While Franklin County Public Health regularly sees cryptosporidiosis -- commonly known as cryptosporidium or crypto -- in recreational swimming waters, there has been a recent rise over the normal threshold of cases in Central Ohio.

Crypto is a germ that causes diarrhea. It is found in the fecal matter of a person who has been infected by Crypto. It is spread by swallowing water that has been contaminated with fecal matter containing Crypto. It can also be spread from human to human contact. Crypto is protected by an outer shell that allows it to survive outside the body for long periods and makes it very tolerant to chlorine disinfection.



Symptoms include watery diarrhea with abdominal pain and cramping, which can be accompanied by dehydration, weight loss, fever, nausea and vomiting. Symptoms can last for two weeks, with improvement often followed by recurrence. Infected persons can continue to shed the disease for several weeks after diarrhea subsides, so they should avoid activities involving recreational waters for at least two weeks after diarrhea subsides and practice diligent hand washing.

With a recent recreational water facility reporting illnesses from Crypto and an overall increase of cases in our community, Franklin County Public Health wants to remind all pool operators of steps they should take to reduce the spread of the illness:

- Pool operators must follow steps to "super chlorinate" the water when fecal accidents occur. The recommendations are different depending on whether the fecal accident is a formed stool or diarrhea. Attached is the guidance from the Centers for Disease Control on how to manage fecal incidents. **IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT THE ATTACHED STEPS ARE FOLLOWED.**
- Document all fecal incidents that occur including date, time and location of the incident.
- Do not allow employees, including lifeguards, to enter the water when they are experiencing symptoms such as diarrhea or vomiting, as that may indicate illnesses, such as cryptosporidiosis.
- Encourage swimmers to:
  - o Not swim when they have diarrhea and never pee or poop in the pool.
  - o Take a shower/bathe before going in the water.
  - o Wash hands with soap and water after using the bathroom, changing diapers and before eating.
  - o Change diapers in a bathroom and not by the pool.
  - o Take kids on frequent bathroom breaks and check diapers often.
  - o Avoid swallowing any water and keep it out of their mouth.

Should you have any questions, please call 614-525-3160 and ask to speak with someone in the public swimming pool program or email [fcph@franklincountyohio.gov](mailto:fcph@franklincountyohio.gov).