

**Your child may have been exposed to:**

**Giardiasis**

Giardiasis is an infection of the intestines caused by a parasite.

**If you think your child has Giardiasis:**

- Tell your childcare provider or call the school.
- **Need to stay home?**

**Childcare:**

**Yes**, until 24 hours post the beginning of treatment and the diarrhea has stopped

**School:**

**No**, Unless the child is not feeling well and / or has diarrhea and needs to use the bathroom frequently.

In addition, anyone with Giardiasis should not use swimming pools, beaches, waterparks, hot tubs, or spas for 2 weeks after the diarrhea has stopped.

**Symptoms**

Your child may have watery diarrhea, vomiting, and fever. Your child may not be hungry or may complain about stomach pain. Illness may last up to 10 days.

If your child is infected, it may take 2 to 14 days for symptoms to start.

**Spread**

-By eating or drinking contaminated food or beverages, including undercooked chicken.

-By touching contaminated hands, objects, or surfaces.

**Contagious Period**

The illness can spread as long as *Giardia* parasites are in the stool. This may be 2 weeks or longer.

**Call your Healthcare Provider**

If anyone in your home:

- ◆ If anyone in your home has symptoms. There is a medical test to detect the parasite. There is a treatment; however, most people get better without any specific treatment.
- ◆ Ask how to prevent dehydration. Your child may lose a lot of water due to vomiting and diarrhea

**Prevention**

- Wash hands after using the toilet, changing diapers, and before preparing food or eating. Your child may need assistance with washing their hands.
- Clean and disinfect any objects that come in contact with stool. This includes toilets, potty chairs, sinks, toys, & diaper changing areas. Use products that kill germs. Pets and farm animals (particularly cattle) can cause cryptosporidiosis. Wash your hands after touching pets and farm animals.
- **DO NOT** swallow water when swimming in lakes, swimming pools, hot tubs or fountains. Spread can occur through contaminated water.

For more information, call Kylie Chilton, Regional Epidemiologist at 859-885-4149 x1033 or call your local health department.