

## **Cyclosporiasis**

Agent: *Cyclospora cayetanensis* (parasite)

Mode of Transmission: Can be foodborne or waterborne. *Cyclospora* are resistant to chlorine and iodine treatment and are unlikely to be killed by routine chemical disinfection or sanitizing methods. Direct person-to-person transmission has not been documented.

Signs/Symptoms: Profuse watery diarrhea commonly occurs, along with nausea, anorexia, substantial weight loss, abdominal bloating or cramping, increased gassiness and prolonged fatigue. Low-grade fever and vomiting are uncommon but can occur. Some infected persons are asymptomatic, particularly in settings where cyclosporiasis is endemic.

Prevention: Fresh produce should be washed thoroughly before it is consumed. No vaccine for cyclosporiasis is available.

Other Important Information: *C. cayetanensis* is known to be endemic in many resource-limited countries and has been reported as a cause of traveler's diarrhea. Most outbreaks reported in the U.S. have been associated with the consumption of imported fresh produce, including raspberries, basil, cilantro, snow peas and lettuce. No commercially frozen or canned produce has been implicated as the source of an outbreak.

<b>Cyclosporiasis: 2014 Data Summary</b>	
Number of Cases:	4
5-Year Average Number of Cases:	1.8
% Change from 5-Year Average:	+122%
Incidence Rate per 100,000:	0.0

In 2014, 4 cases of cyclosporiasis were reported in Virginia, which is the same number of cases that were reported in 2013. Between 2005 and 2012, from 0 to 3 cases were reported each year. The four cases reported in 2014 represent a 122% increase in cases compared to the five-year average of 1.8 cases per year. All four cases occurred among adults, three female and one male. Three cases were reported from the northern region and one case from the eastern region. All four individuals reported consuming produce prior to becoming ill. None reported international travel.

All four cases occurred during the second quarter of the year. Most cases and outbreaks of cyclosporiasis in the U.S. occur in spring and summer months, but not all cases identified during the same time of year are caused by the same exposure. CDC and other institutions are working to develop advanced molecular detection methods for *C. cayetanensis* that could distinguish among strains of this parasite. In the future, DNA fingerprinting methods could help public health investigators determine whether cases of cyclosporiasis are linked to each other and to particular food items or other sources of infection.