

Cyclosporiasis

Agent: *Cyclospora cayetanensis* (parasite)

Mode of Transmission: Consumption of food or water contaminated with feces containing the infective parasite. Direct person-to-person transmission is unlikely because the parasites excreted in stool require days to weeks outside the host to become infectious.

Signs/Symptoms: Profuse watery diarrhea commonly occurs, along with nausea, vomiting, anorexia, substantial weight loss, abdominal bloating or cramping and prolonged fatigue. Fever occurs in approximately half the patients.

Prevention: Fresh produce should be washed thoroughly before it is consumed.

Other Important Information: The parasite is resistant to chlorination.

One case of cyclosporiasis was reported during 2009. This is similar to the five-year average of 1.6 cases per year. The reported case was a female in the 20-29 year age group from the northwest region with no history of travel prior to onset of illness. While consumption of fresh produce was reported, the source of exposure was not identified.