

Cyclosporiasis

Agent: *Cyclospora cayetanensis* (parasite)

Mode of Transmission: Can be foodborne or waterborne. *Cyclospora* are resistant to chlorination. Direct person-to-person transmission has not been documented.

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: *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.

Two cases of cyclosporiasis were reported during 2011. This is similar to the five-year average of 1.2 cases per year. Both were females from the 60 year and older age group from the northwest region of the state. Each reported eating fresh berries and lettuce prior to onset of symptoms, and for one case, symptoms began during international travel. Onsets for the two cases occurred in June and September.