

Mission:  
To protect, promote & improve the health  
of all people in Florida through integrated  
state, county & community efforts.



Rick Scott  
Governor

John H. Armstrong, MD, FACS  
State Surgeon General & Secretary

Vision: To be the Healthiest State in the Nation

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The Florida Department of Health in Pinellas County has identified an increase in the number of cases of cryptosporidiosis (referred to as Crypto) in our community. Crypto is caused by a parasite called *Cryptosporidium parvum* that can infect humans, cattle, and other mammals. Infection with Crypto can cause loose, watery diarrhea, stomach cramps, nausea, vomiting, and/or a slight fever. Some people with Crypto have no symptoms at all.

Cryptosporidium is often spread by hands contaminated with feces during toilet use or diaper-changing. From the hands, it can spread to surfaces, toys and food. It also spreads easily in water, including chlorinated swimming pools. When the cysts are swallowed, the person becomes infected.

Because Crypto can be spread so easily through water, people infected with Crypto should avoid swimming while ill and two weeks after diarrhea stops, as the parasite continues to be shed in feces. *Swimming should be avoided even if the pool is properly chlorinated because Crypto is highly resistant to chlorine and can survive for days in the water.*

Hyperchlorination is the recommended method to treat recreational water linked to a case of cryptosporidiosis. The pool should be closed and the water's free chlorine concentration should be raised to 20 parts per million for at least 765 minutes or 10 parts per million for 1,530 minutes to ensure a concentration time inactivation value (Ct) of 15,300. The pH should be maintained at 7.5 and the temperature at 77°F or higher. It should also be confirmed that the filtration system is operating while the water is disinfected. Then backwash the filter thoroughly once the Ct has been reached. Do not return the backwash through the filter. Where appropriate, replace the filter media.

Swimmers should only be allowed back into the water once the required Ct has been achieved and the free chlorine and pH levels have returned to the normal operating range.

To assist with the control and prevention of cryptosporidiosis, we have included two attachments for your reference and distribution.

If you have questions regarding cryptosporidiosis, please call the Epidemiology Program at the Florida Department of Health in Pinellas County at (727) 507-4346.