

## Cryptosporidium Facts

- Cryptosporidium (Crypto) is an intestinal parasite. It does not multiply outside of its animal host.
- The parasite is very resistant to normal swimming pool chlorine levels. Testing for the parasite is difficult and expensive.
- Infection is called Cryptosporidiosis. This is a diarrheal illness.
- Symptoms include one or more of the following: Stomach cramps, watery diarrhea, nausea, vomiting, mild fever, and dehydration.
- If you experience any of the above symptoms, contact your health-care provider for proper diagnosis.
- Symptoms last for 1 to 2 weeks and generally begin 2-10 days after becoming infected. There is a prescription drug treatment for infection.
- The parasite is spread by exposure to contaminated water including lakes, streams, rivers, and swimming pools, and accidentally drinking some of the water.
- It can also be spread by poor hand wash habits after using the restroom or changing diapers.
- It is important that an individual with any of the listed symptoms remain out of recreational water venues for two weeks after symptoms end.
- Just because an individual does not have symptoms does not mean the individual is not passing the parasite.

For more information see: [www.healthyswimming.org](http://www.healthyswimming.org)

References: Cryptosporidiosis: Fact Sheets: Infection-General Public. Centers for Disease Control