



Harrison-Clarksburg Health Department

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The **Harrison-Clarksburg Health Department** is currently investigating two potential cases of a gastrointestinal disease that appear to be caused by a microscopic parasite. These cases have been reported to our agency by medical providers within the county. Further confirmatory testing is being done, and public health officials are interviewing those individuals concerning food consumption and potential common environments before getting ill. Investigators are currently collecting information and greatly appreciate the public's cooperation should they be contacted.

Those infected with *Cyclospora* may or may not experience symptoms. *Cyclospora* infects the small intestine (bowel) and usually causes watery diarrhea with frequent and sometimes explosive bowel movements. Therefore, direct person-to-person transmission is unlikely. If you or someone you know is experiencing these or similar symptoms, please contact your primary care provider or a medical professional.

Other potential symptoms:

- Gastrointestinal: Loss of appetite, significant weight loss, stomach cramps, bloating, and increased gas.
- Systemic: Extreme tiredness (fatigue), nausea, and sometimes, vomiting.
- Other: Low-grade fever, headache, body aches, and flu-like symptoms.

The time between becoming infected and becoming sick is usually about one week but can range from 2 days – 2 weeks or more. It spreads when people eat food or drink water that was contaminated with feces (poop). It takes at least 1 – 2 weeks in the environment (outside the body) for *Cyclospora* to become infectious after passing in a bowel movement.

A specific food item has not yet been confirmed as the source but follow food safety handling recommendations for safe preparation and storage.

- Wash hands with soap and water before and after handling or preparing raw fruits and vegetables.
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- Scrub firm fruits and vegetables, such as melons and cucumbers, with a clean produce brush.