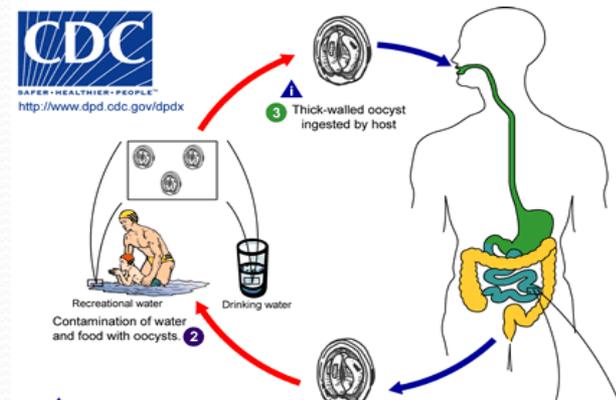
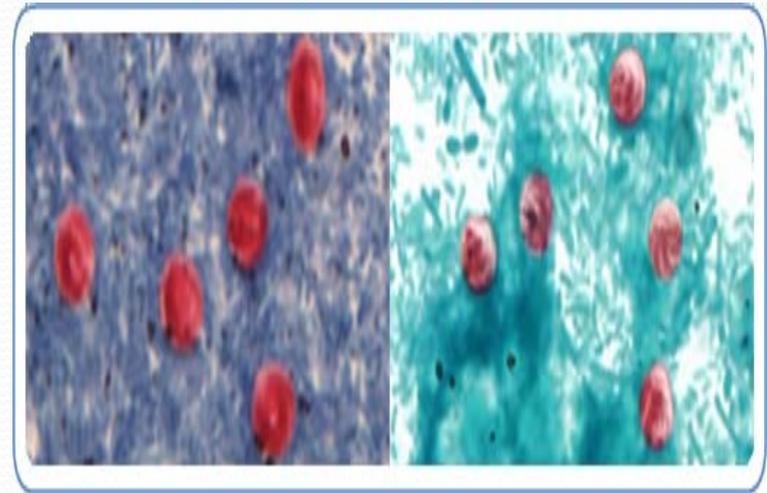


# Cryptosporidiosis

## What is Cryptosporidiosis?

- Cryptosporidiosis is a diarrheal disease caused by microscopic parasites, **Cryptosporidium**, that can live in the intestine of humans and animals.
- Cryptosporidium may be found in soil, food, and water and can be passed in the stool of an infected person or animal.





# How is *Cryptosporidium* transmitted?

- Oral contact or swallowing something that has come into contact with stool of a person or animal infected with cryptosporidium
- Swallowing contaminated water with cryptosporidium while swimming or playing in water
- Eating uncooked food contaminated with cryptosporidium
- Swallowing cryptosporidium picked up from surfaces that contain stool from an infected person or animal, ie: bathroom handles, changing tables, diaper pails, or toys
- Swallowing cryptosporidium by touching your mouth with contaminated hands through contacting with an infected person or animal feces.
- Exposure to human feces through sexual contact.





# Who is susceptible to *Cryptosporidium*?

- Everyone is susceptible to *Cryptosporidium*

## **People more likely to become infected include:**

- Children in child care settings especially diaper-aged children
- Child care workers
- International travelers, backpackers, hikers, and campers who drink unsafe water
- People, including swimmers, who swallow water from contaminated sources
- People who handle infected cattle
- People exposed to human feces through sexual contact



# Symptoms of Cryptosporidiosis?

The symptoms generally begin 2 to 10 days after exposure and last about 1 to 2 weeks.

- Watery diarrhea
- Stomach cramps or pain
- Dehydration
- Nausea
- Vomiting
- Fever
- Weight loss



\*People with weakened immune systems may develop serious, chronic and sometimes fatal illness.

## How is Cryptosporidiosis diagnosed?

- Stool specimens

## What is the treatment for Cryptosporidiosis?

- Most people who have healthy immune systems will recover without treatment.
- Drink extra fluids to prevent and treat dehydration.
- Some patients may respond to certain antibiotics.



# How can Cryptosporidiosis be prevented?



- Practice good hygiene
- Wash hands with soap and water after bowel movements
- Wash hands before and after food preparation.
- Wash hands thoroughly after contact with cattle or other farm animals.
- Avoid water and food that may be contaminated
- Do not drink raw milk
- Prevent contact and contamination with feces during sex