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# FAX about ...



## Locally-acquired *Cyclosporiasis* in Ontario

Ontario is experiencing an increase in the number of *Cyclospora* infections. There have been **36** locally-acquired cyclosporiasis cases reported in **Ontario** between **April 1 and July 12, 2018**. There have been **4** reported cases in **Durham Region**. We are requesting your assistance in helping with **prompt diagnosis** of infected patients.

- **Diagnosis:** by stool ova and parasite (O&P) examination. If patients present with **cyclosporiasis-compatible symptoms between now and the end of summer**, please request testing for **stool parasites** on the Public Health Ontario Laboratory General Test Requisition form and specify the request is to test for ***Cyclospora***.
- **Treatment:** [First-line treatment](#) is **trimethoprim-sulfamethoxazole (TMP-SMX)**.

Cyclosporiasis is a gastrointestinal illness caused by infection of the parasite *Cyclospora cayetanensis*. **Frequent watery diarrhea** is common, however **other symptoms** may include **anorexia, fatigue, abdominal cramps, nausea and myalgia**. Untreated, symptoms can last 6 – 7 weeks and can wax and wane in intensity.

People are infected by **ingesting food or water infected with the parasite**. Travel related cases include countries in the **Caribbean, South & Central Americas, South & South East Asia**. Most locally-acquired outbreaks in Ontario occur in the **spring and summer** and are usually related to **produce** such as berries or herbs **imported from *Cyclospora*-endemic countries**. This infection is **not** usually **spread from person to person**.

Additional resources: PHO: <https://bit.ly/2mCPmRz> PHAC: <https://bit.ly/2LFmh2U>

Cyclosporiasis is a [disease of public health significance](#). Health care providers are required to **report all confirmed cases** to the Durham Region Health Department, Environmental Health Division at **1-888-777-9613**.

Health care provider resources now available to order online [durham.ca/HCP](http://durham.ca/HCP).

Durham Region Health Department: 905-723-3818, 1-888-777 9613

July 24, 2018

If you prefer to receive this information in an electronic format please submit your request to [healthresources@durham.ca](mailto:healthresources@durham.ca)

If you require this information in an accessible format, contact 1-888-777-9613.