Cryptosporidiosis (Cryptosporidium spp.)

2012 Case Definition
CSTE Position Statement Number: 11-ID-14

Clinical Description
A gastrointestinal illness characterized by diarrhea and one or more of the following: diarrhea duration of 72 hours or more, abdominal cramping, vomiting, or anorexia.

Laboratory Criteria for Diagnosis

Confirmed
- Evidence of Cryptosporidium organisms or DNA in stool, intestinal fluid, tissue samples, biopsy specimens, or other biological sample by certain laboratory methods with a high positive predictive value (PPV), e.g.,
  - Direct fluorescent antibody [DFA] test,
  - Polymerase chain reaction [PCR],
  - Enzyme immunoassay [EIA], or
  - Light microscopy of stained specimen.

Probable
The detection of Cryptosporidium antigen by a screening test method, such as immunochromatographic card/rapid card test; or a laboratory test of unknown method.

Case Classification

Probable
- A case with supportive laboratory test results for Cryptosporidia spp. infection using a method listed in the probable laboratory criteria. When the diagnostic test method on a laboratory test result for cryptosporidiosis cannot be determined, the case can only be classified as probable, OR
- A case that meets the clinical criteria and is epidemiologically linked to a confirmed case.

Confirmed
A case that is diagnosed with Cryptosporidium spp. infection based on laboratory testing using a method listed in the confirmed criteria.

Comment
Persons who have a diarrheal illness and are epidemiologically linked to a probable case because that individual was only diagnosed with cryptosporidiosis by an immunocard/rapid test/ or unknown test method cannot be classified as probable cases. These epi-links can be considered suspect cases only.