



WATER DROP

This month the Water Plant started testing for Cryptosporidium. For the next 2 years, we will be monitoring this parasite in our raw water source. After two years of data is accumulated, we will be categorized by the EPA into a tier level depending on the average amount found during the testing period. The Franklin Water Plant will be allowed an "out" of some of the new restrictions by continuing our extremely low turbidity results on our filtered water. That is the only way to actually treat this contaminant, by allowing the crypto to settle out. So the lower your settled water turbidity results, the more crypto (if any is present) you remove. This is just one of the many contaminants that we have to have a handle on. Public safety is always our number one priority. Once again, we will have to go above and beyond.

Creepy Crawlies Cryptosporidium in Drinking Water?

The picture above is a microscopic view of *Cryptosporidium parvum*. *Cryptosporidium parvum*, which causes the disease cryptosporidiosis (KRIP-toe-spo-RID-e-O-sis), is a one-celled, microscopic parasite, and a significant cause of waterborne illness worldwide. It is found in the intestines of many herd animals including cows, sheep, goats, deer, and elk. Cryptosporidiosis is a diarrheal disease caused by microscopic parasites of the genus *Cryptosporidium*. Once an animal or person is infected, the parasite lives in the intestine and passes in the stool. The parasite is protected by an outer shell that allows it to survive outside the body for long periods of time and makes it very resistant to chlorine-based disinfectants. Both the disease and the parasite are commonly known as "crypto." During the past two decades, crypto has become recognized as one of the most common causes of waterborne disease within humans in the United States. The parasite may be found in drinking water and recreational water in every region of the United States and throughout the world.

How is cryptosporidiosis spread?

Cryptosporidium lives in the intestine of infected humans or animals. Millions of crypto germs can be released in a bowel movement from an infected human or animal. Consequently, *Cryptosporidium* is found in soil, food, water, or surfaces that have been contaminated with infected human or animal feces. If a person swallows the parasite they become infected. You cannot become infected through contact with blood. The parasite can be spread by

- Accidentally putting something into your mouth or swallowing something that has come into contact with feces of a person or animal infected with *Cryptosporidium*.

- Swallowing recreational water contaminated with *Cryptosporidium* (Recreational water includes water in swimming pools, hot tubs, jacuzzis, fountains, lakes, rivers, springs, ponds, or streams that can be contaminated with sewage or feces from humans or animals.) Note: *Cryptosporidium* can survive for days in swimming pools with adequate chlorine levels.

- Eating uncooked food contaminated with *Cryptosporidium*. Thoroughly wash with clean, safe water all vegetables and fruits you plan to eat raw. See below for information on making water safe.

- Accidentally swallowing *Cryptosporidium* picked up from surfaces (such as bathroom fixtures, changing tables, diaper pails, or toys) contaminated with feces from an infected person.

People who are most likely to become infected with *Cryptosporidium* include:

- Children who attend day care centers and their workers
- Parents of infected children
- International travelers
- Backpackers, hikers, and campers who drink unfiltered, untreated water
- Swimmers who swallow water while swimming in swimming pools, lakes, rivers, ponds, and streams
- People who drink from shallow, unprotected wells
- People who swallow water from contaminated sources

Contaminated water includes water that has not been boiled or filtered.