

# CRYPTOSPORIDIUM AND ANIMAL EXPOSURES



*Cryptosporidium parvum* can infect all mammals. It is common in young calves, lambs, and other ruminants. Infections usually occur in young animals.

## ANIMALS

Ingesting contaminated food or water  
Fecal-oral route

**How can I become exposed to Crypto?**

4 days

**How long after an exposure until I get sick?**

Anorexia  
Diarrhea  
Weight loss

**What symptoms will I have?**

## HUMANS

Touching your mouth with contaminated hands  
Contact with objects contaminated with feces

1-12 days

Watery diarrhea  
Cramping  
Abdominal pains  
Nausea  
Malaise

## PREVENTION

Cryptosporidium organisms are common in the environment and **can be carried by animals without any symptoms.**



After working with or touching animals, make sure to **wash your hands thoroughly.**



Keep sick animals away from healthy animals.



Clean and disinfect areas where sick animals have been or had diarrhea.



Provide good nutrition & keep animals healthy to minimize risks.



For more information on *Cryptosporidium*, check out these websites:

**United States Department of Agriculture  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention**



Cryptosporidium is not effectively killed by chlorine and is resistant to many other disinfectants.