

Your child may have been exposed to:

Giardiasis

Quick Help

If you think your child has Giardiasis

Tell your childcare provider or call the school.

Need to stay home?

Yes, until 24 hours post the beginning of treatment and the diarrhea has stopped.

Prevention

- Wash hands after using the toilet, changing diapers and before preparing or eating food. Your child may need assistance with washing their hands.
- Clean and disinfect any objects that come in contact with stool. This includes toilets, potty chairs, sinks, toys and diaper changing areas. Use products that kill germs.
- **DO NOT** swallow water when swimming in lakes, swimming pools, hot tubs or fountains. Spread can occur through contaminated water.

Giardiasis is an intestinal infection caused by a parasite.

Symptoms

- Acute watery diarrhea
- Excessive gas (flatulence)
- Distended and painful abdomen
- Decreased appetite
- Weight loss
- Many individuals are infected and infectious without signs or symptoms
- Some individuals may have symptoms that last for weeks to months.

Spread

- By eating or drinking contaminated food or beverages.
- By touching contaminated hands, objects or surfaces

Contagious Period

The illness can spread as long as *Giardia* parasites are in the stool. This may be 2 weeks or longer.

Call your Healthcare Provider

- If anyone in your home has symptoms. There is a medical test to detect the parasite. There is a treatment, however, most people get better without any specific treatment.
- Ask how to prevent dehydration. Your child may lose a lot of water due to vomiting and diarrhea.

For more information, please visit or call:
Oldham County Health Department
1786 Commerce Parkway, LaGrange KY 40031
502-222-3516 ext. 136
www.oldhamcountyhealthdepartment.org

