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OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS

St. Clair County Health Department

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TO: St. Clair County Healthcare
Providers, Hospital ICPs, Emergency
Departments, ED Physicians, Clinicians
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CYCLOSPORIASIS INFECTION

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), State and Local Health Departments, and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) are investigating an increase in reported cases of cyclosporiasis. Cyclosporiasis is an intestinal illness caused by the parasite *Cyclospora cayetanensis*. People may be infected with *Cyclospora* by consuming food or water contaminated with the parasite; it is not transmitted directly from person to person.

Clinical Characteristics:

- Watery diarrhea, may be profuse (most common)
- Anorexia
- Fatigue
- Weight loss
- Nausea
- Flatulence
- Abdominal cramping
- Myalgia
- Sometimes, vomiting and low-grade fever

Recommendations:

- Consider a diagnosis of cyclosporiasis in patients who have prolonged or relapsing-relapsing diarrheal illness
- If testing indicated, providers should specifically order testing for *Cyclospora*, whether testing is requested by ova and parasite (O&P) examination, molecular methods, or by a gastrointestinal panel test. Several stool specimens may be required because *Cyclospora* oocysts may be shed intermittently and at low levels, even in persons with profuse diarrhea

Call SCCHD with questions or to report suspect or actual cases (810) 987-5300.