

Memorandum

April 28, 2026

To all Calgary Zone Physicians/Medical Staff,

Subject: Cryptosporidium Outbreak at Butterfield Acres Petting Farm

Background:

The Calgary Zone Medical Officers of Health and AHS Environmental Public Health have declared an outbreak of *Cryptosporidium* at Butterfield Acres Petting Farm. Anyone who visited this facility since April 9, 2026, may have been exposed, particularly if they had contact with the animals or their enclosures. *Cryptosporidium* is a pathogen commonly associated with farm environments.

Implications for Clinical Practice:

Consider cryptosporidium in your differential for those presenting with compatible symptoms who may have had an exposure.

Clinical presentation of cryptosporidiosis:

- diarrhea
- abdominal pain
- nausea and vomiting
- fever
- weight loss
- symptoms usually begin 2-10 days after an exposure and can last for 1 to 2 weeks

Public Health is automatically notified of all positive test results for *Cryptosporidium* and will perform an investigation.

Testing:

If you wish to perform testing, please refer the patient to submit a stool sample for the Stool Parasite screen using an APL [microbiology requisition](#)

Treatment:

Cryptosporidiosis is generally self-limited and can be managed with supportive treatment. Dehydration, caused by diarrhea, is the most common complication. Antimicrobials may be considered in consultation with Infectious Disease specialists. Consider early consultation for immunocompromised individuals.

Patients with symptoms should be advised to practice good hand hygiene, use a separate washroom where possible, avoid preparing food for others, and remain home from daycare or school until 48h after symptoms have resolved.

Thank you to all healthcare providers and staff for your ongoing efforts to keep patients and colleagues safe.

Yours truly,

Medical Officers of Health, Calgary Zone
Primary and Preventative Health Services
Government of Alberta