

GIARDIASIS

Disease/Incubation Period

Incubation Period: 1 - 4 weeks (usually 2 weeks)

Reportable

How To Recognize

Soft mushy foul smelling bowel movement or diarrhea, (mild to severe) nausea, loss of appetite, bloating and gas. Sometimes no symptoms. Caused by infection with giardia cysts that grow in the intestine.

How It Spreads

From water that has been contaminated with giardia cysts, or person to person from infected stool to hand to mouth.

When It Is Contagious

As long as the symptoms last: usually from three to ten days.

What To Do At Home

- Take child to doctor. Giardiasis can be treated with medication.
- Stress good personal hygiene including washing of hands after toileting and before preparing/eating food.

What To Do At School

- Child must not attend until diarrhea is gone.
- Ensure good personal hygiene including washing of hands after toileting and before preparing/eating food.
- If more than one case occurs, inform Public Health Unit/Community Health Agency immediately.

For additional information and services
contact your Regional Health Authority
listed in the white pages of your
telephone book.