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MEMORANDUM

To: Local Health Departments – Administrators, Communicable Disease and Environmental Health; Laboratories; Emergency Departments, Infectious Disease Physicians and Infection Control Preventionists

From: Communicable Disease Control Section

Date: July 12, 2018

Subject: *Cyclospora cayetanensis* Cluster Investigation

Since May 1, 2018, we continue to see an increase in reported cases of *Cyclospora cayetanensis* compared to previous years. So far in 2018, more than 100 cases of *Cyclospora* infection have been reported in Illinois, and five to ten new cases are being reported daily throughout the state. *Cyclospora* cases in the United States are more commonly seen among persons who have traveled overseas, but the majority of Illinois cases this year have not had international travel, and thus are considered domestically acquired.

Based on interviews of Illinois cases with the CDC Cyclospora National Hypothesis Generating Questionnaire, 27% of the domestically acquired cases who have been interviewed report eating a salad from McDonald's which is larger percent than expected based on 2017 data. At least one other Midwestern state is reporting an increase in cyclosporiasis cases reporting the same exposure.

IDPH is working with the McDonald's Corporation and their suppliers to obtain information about the source of the salad ingredients. It is unknown if other sources of leafy greens or salad ingredients are affected at this time. *Cyclospora cayetanensis* outbreaks are commonly linked to various types of imported fresh produce.

Health care providers should consider *Cyclospora* as a potential cause of prolonged diarrheal illness and request stool testing for *Cyclospora*. Testing for *Cyclospora* is not available at the IDPH laboratories, so specimens should be sent to clinical laboratories. Providers are asked to report suspect cases who experienced watery diarrhea after eating at McDonald's within 14 days of illness onset to their local health department, as well as all confirmed cases. Laboratories are asked to forward clinical materials positive for *Cyclospora* to the IDPH Springfield Laboratory until September 1, 2018 for submission to CDC for additional testing.

Among symptomatic persons, the average incubation period is seven days (typical range is two to 14 days). *Cyclospora* can cause watery diarrhea, loss of appetite, weight loss, abdominal cramps, bloating, increase in gas and prolonged fatigue. Symptoms can last for a few days to a month or longer.

Symptoms may go away and come back again multiple times. Persons also can carry the organism asymptotically. Most people who have healthy immune systems will recover without treatment. However, there is an effective antibiotic, and clinicians should consider treatment of confirmed cases based on clinical status.

Local health departments should attempt to interview new cyclosporiasis cases the same day they are notified of the case. If the LHD is unable to do this, they should contact IDPH and request interviewing assistance. The most up-to-date questionnaires are available on the web portal, including a form for collecting information from suspect cases who are symptomatic and report eating at McDonald's. We appreciate the assistance by the LHDs thus far in this investigation.

Please contact your local health department with any questions about human cases or the IDPH Foodborne Program at 217-782-2016 with any questions about product issues. Local health department contact information can be found at: http://www.idph.state.il.us/IDPHPrograms/v_LHDDirectory/Show-V-LHDDirectory-Public.aspx.

Local health departments are asked to share this with their communicable disease and environmental health staff.