

Cyclosporiasis Illnesses in the United States, 2023

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CDC, along with state and federal health and regulatory officials, monitor cases of cyclosporiasis acquired in the United States in the spring and summer months to detect outbreaks linked to a common food source. Cyclosporiasis is diarrheal illness caused by a parasite called *Cyclospora cayetanensis*.

Fast Facts

- Illnesses: 210
- Hospitalizations: 30
- Deaths: 0
- States reporting cases: 22
- Investigation status: Active (first posted on May 25, 2023)

Cyclosporiasis illnesses are reported year-round in the United States. However, during the spring and summer months there is often an increase in cyclosporiasis acquired in the United States. The exact timing and duration of these seasonal increases in cyclosporiasis can vary, but reports tend to increase starting in May. This year, cases were reported starting in April. It is too soon to tell if this timing indicates a change in the seasonality of cyclosporiasis in the United States.

In [previous years](#), the reported number of cases peaked between June and July, although cases can be reported as late as September. The number of infections or hospitalizations and the number of identified outbreaks linked to a common source also vary from season to season.

Multiple outbreaks of cyclosporiasis caused by different foods can be reported during the same year. [Previous U.S. outbreaks of cyclosporiasis](#) have been linked to various types of fresh produce, including basil, cilantro, mesclun lettuce, raspberries, and snow peas. However, many cases of cyclosporiasis cannot be directly linked to an outbreak. Officials use questionnaires to interview sick people to determine what they ate in the 14-day period before getting sick. If a common food is found, CDC and partners work quickly to determine if the contaminated food is still available in stores or in peoples' homes and issue advisories.

2023 Outbreaks:

- CDC, FDA, and state and local partners investigated an outbreak of cyclosporiasis cases in Georgia and Alabama linked to raw broccoli that included 20 illnesses. People reported eating broccoli in the 14 days before they got sick. [FDA](#) and state and local partners conducted traceback investigations and determined that the broccoli was imported. However, FDA investigators were unable to confirm the specific type or producer of the imported broccoli as the source of the outbreak. This outbreak appears to be over and there is no indication at this time that broccoli continues to be a source of illness for other cases of cyclosporiasis being reported in the United States.

What are the symptoms of cyclosporiasis?

- Symptoms usually start within 2 weeks after eating food contaminated with *Cyclospora*.
- People typically experience watery diarrhea. They may also experience loss of appetite, cramping, bloating, increased gas, nausea, and fatigue.
- Symptoms can persist for several weeks to a month or more. If untreated, symptoms may get better for a while and then return, and this pattern may repeat.
- For more information about *Cyclospora*, see the [Cyclospora Frequently Asked Questions](#).

What should I do?

- If you have symptoms of cyclosporiasis, see your healthcare provider. Your doctor can test you for cyclosporiasis. Treatment is available.
- If you are sick with *Cyclospora*, local or state health officials may contact you to find out what you ate in the 2 weeks before you got sick. Please respond to their calls. This information helps us identify the contaminated food that made you sick. They may also ask for copies of receipts, permission to use your shopper card number, or collect leftover food for testing.

What should health care providers do?

- Report cyclosporiasis cases to your local health department.
- For more information about clinical features of cyclosporiasis and treatment, see [Cyclosporiasis – Resources for Health Professionals](#)

Investigation Details

[Print](#)

June 22, 2023

This is an update on the number of [cyclosporiasis](#) illnesses acquired in the United States with onset on or after April 1, 2023. Cases continue to be reported.

No specific food items have been identified as the source of most of these illnesses. State and local public health officials are interviewing people with cyclosporiasis to find out what foods they ate before getting sick.

As of June 20, 2023, a total of 210 laboratory-confirmed cases of cyclosporiasis in people who had not traveled outside the United States during the 14 days before they got sick have been reported from 23 jurisdictions, including 22 states and New York City.

Sick people range in age from 3 to 95 years, with a median age of 49, and 64% are female. The median illness onset date is May 5, 2023 (range: April 1 to June 9). Of 207 people with information available, 30 have been hospitalized. Zero deaths have been reported.

The total number of laboratory-confirmed cases reported since April 1, 2023, includes 20 cases in Georgia and Alabama linked to an outbreak associated with raw imported broccoli. Although FDA and state and local partners conducted traceback investigations, there was not enough information to identify a specific type or producer of the broccoli.

- As of June 20, 2023, a total of 20 people with laboratory confirmed cyclosporiasis were reported from 2 states (Georgia and Alabama). The true number of sick people in this outbreak is likely higher than the number reported, and the outbreak may not be limited to the states with known illnesses. This is because some people recover without medical care and are not tested for cyclosporiasis.

- State and local health officials collected as much information as they could by asking people or their caregivers about foods they ate before getting sick. Epidemiologic data showed that raw broccoli was a likely source for this cluster of cases in Georgia and Alabama.
- Genotyping showed that *Cyclospora* from sick people's samples were likely closely related genetically, suggesting that people in this cluster got sick from the same food.
- This outbreak appears to be over. There is no indication at this time that broccoli continues to be a source of illness for other cyclosporiasis cases being reported in the United States.