



Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services

HEALTH ALERT NETWORK Advisory



TO: Laboratories and Local Public Health Departments

FROM: Joseph Acierno, M.D. J.D. Thomas J. Safranek, M.D.
Chief Medical Officer State Epidemiologist
State of Nebraska 402-471-2937 PHONE
402-471-8566 PHONE 402-471-3601 FAX

RE: Outbreak of Cyclospora Gastroenteritis

DATE: July 5, 2013

An additional eight persons with positive stool testing for cyclospora have been reported to public health officials in Nebraska, for a total of 13 Nebraska residents. Additional cases have been reported to Iowa public health officials.

We are asking that all laboratories consider the possibility of cyclospora in their diagnostic work up of stool specimens for enteric pathogens.

The most common presumptive diagnostic method to screen for Cyclospora is an Ova & Parasite (O & P) exam wet mount. Suspicious wet mounts are subsequently confirmed as Cyclospora using a modified acid fast stain of the O & P concentrate. In addition the organism will autofluoresce when examined under fluorescent light microscopy.

Following approval by a state or local health department official, suspicious stool samples should be submitted to the Nebraska Public Health Laboratory for confirmatory testing. Ideally, stool should be placed into a preservative such as Proto-fix (available from Regional Pathology Services) and submitted using the Special Microbiology Requisition with a request for "Cyclospora Confirmation Testing".

Laboratories should promptly report any newly identified patients with cyclospora to their respective local health department or to the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services Office of Epidemiology (Phone: 402-471-2937, Fax: 402-471-3601).