

15 February 2018

Notice to schools and preschool centres of increase in cryptosporidiosis

Message for distribution

Regional Public Health has noted an increase in the number of gastro illnesses caused by the bug cryptosporidium. This has been especially for children using the Raumatī splash pad around Wellington Anniversary weekend. The splash pad has closed for cleaning.

It usually takes 7 days (sometimes from 1 to 12) for symptoms to show after you have been infected. The symptoms are usually watery diarrhoea and stomach cramps and usually get better on their own in a few days. It is important to stay home and drink plenty of fluids while ill. If you are worried about the symptoms you can see your family doctor or call Healthline 0800 611 116.

People with crypto are still infectious after the diarrhoea stops. To stop other people getting sick, stay away from school or preschool until 48 hours with no diarrhoea. Good hand washing and drying is very important to stop the bug spreading to others.

It is also important not to use swimming pools (including splash pads) for two weeks after the diarrhoea has stopped. The bug can spread easily in pools.

More information about crypto and preventing spread in swimming pools is available at:

<http://www.rph.org.nz/publichealthtopics/recreationalwater/resources>

<http://www.rph.org.nz/public-health-topics/recreational-water/safe-swimming.pdf>