

Cyclosporiasis Daily Update

Athens, Gallia, Hocking, Jackson, Meigs, Pike, Ross, and Vinton Counties

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Cyclosporiasis Cases Continue to be Identified in Ohio; Health Department Urges Residents to Seek Care for Prolonged Gastrointestinal Symptoms

Local health departments continue to monitor cyclosporiasis activity across its eight-county service area — Athens, Gallia, Hocking, Jackson, Meigs, Pike, Ross, and Vinton counties — as part of the statewide and national 2026 seasonal increase in cases. Residents experiencing prolonged watery diarrhea and other gastrointestinal symptoms are urged to contact their healthcare provider and specifically request testing for Cyclospora.

Current Case Snapshot

Geographic Level	Confirmed Cases	As of 07/22/2026 9AM
Athens County	1	
Gallia County	7	
Hocking County	0	
Jackson County	15	
Meigs County	3	
Pike County	2	
Ross County	22	
Vinton County	3*(1)	
Region Total (8 Counties)	51 (5 New Cases)	
Ohio (statewide)	1303	July 16, 2026
United States (national)	7000+	July 16, 2026

Note: Figures above reflect the most recently available CDC and ODH surveillance data at the time this template was prepared. Because the 2026 season is active and evolving, confirm current counts with ODH/CDC surveillance pages before each release and update the highlighted fields throughout this document. **Please note that there are additional cases that are falling under the “Probable or Suspected” category. Generally, most cyclosporiasis cases will eventually convert to confirmed once case investigations are completed, and labs results are finalized and confirmed. Cases above are ONLY cases that occurred ON or AFTER June 21st. Meigs county had one case on the 17th that is counted in the figures above. *Vinton count has 3 cases total for the year, but only (1) would be counted in the outbreak dates outlined by ODH.**

Epidemiological insights

- (New) CDC and FDA officials have now confirmed a brand and a distributor that provides lettuce to fast food chain Taco Bell.
- More than 1600 individuals that were interviewed mentioned eating at Taco Bell.
- On July 17, 2026, Taylor Farms initiated a recall of all iceberg lettuce sourced from central Mexico. The recall includes iceberg lettuce sold at retail stores and restaurants.
- 94 hospitalizations (all states involved in outbreak)

Symptoms to Watch For

- Watery diarrhea, sometimes frequent or explosive
- Loss of appetite and unintended weight loss
- Stomach cramping and bloating
- Increased gas, nausea, and fatigue
- Low-grade fever (less common)

Guidance for the Public

- Contact a healthcare provider if you have diarrhea lasting more than a few days, and specifically ask for Cyclospora stool testing — as it is not part of routine stool panels.
- Multiple stool samples on different days may be needed, since the parasite can shed intermittently.
- Wash fresh produce, though washing does not reliably remove Cyclospora from contaminated food.
- Stay well hydrated and rest; treatment is available (trimethoprim-sulfamethoxazole) for confirmed cases, with alternatives available for those with sulfa allergies.
- Report suspected or confirmed cases to your local health department; cyclosporiasis is a reportable condition in Ohio.

About Cyclosporiasis

Cyclosporiasis is an intestinal illness caused by the microscopic parasite *Cyclospora cayetanensis*. It spreads when people consume food or water contaminated with feces and is not typically transmitted person-to-person. Symptoms typically begin about one week after exposure (range 2 days to 2 weeks) and include watery diarrhea (sometimes described as explosive), cramping, bloating, nausea, fatigue, and loss of appetite. Without treatment, illness can last from a few days to several weeks or longer, and symptoms may resolve and recur.
