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# Cyclospora Outbreak: Nine Cases Linked to Hospital Lettuce

## Description

Nine individuals contracted cyclosporiasis after consuming lettuce served at the Cheshire Medical Center cafeteria in Keene, New Hampshire, according to state health officials. This outbreak, which is connected to a broader national issue, has prompted investigation into additional linked cases.

The New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) is exploring further incidents associated with this cluster. Dartmouth Health reported that Cheshire Medical Center identified a total of 16 individuals exposed to the parasite, including 10 employees.

In response to the outbreak, Taylor Farms has recalled the implicated lettuce. Health officials confirmed that this product is no longer available at the facility, and the salad bar options have been temporarily suspended at Dartmouth Health.

Importantly, officials noted that no inpatients have reported cases of cyclosporiasis while receiving care at Cheshire Medical Center. However, DHHS has urged anyone who consumed lettuce at the location between early June and July 20 to seek medical advice if they experience severe or persistent watery diarrhea.

State epidemiologist Dr. Benjamin Chan indicated that increased reporting of cases is likely, as healthcare providers and patients become aware of the outbreak and perform additional testing. Symptoms of cyclosporiasis may include watery diarrhea, appetite loss, weight loss, stomach cramps, nausea, fatigue, and low-grade fever, typically arising within one week of consuming contaminated food, although onset can be delayed for up to two weeks or longer.

While cyclosporiasis is not fatal, it can lead to significant gastrointestinal discomfort. If untreated, symptoms may persist for weeks and may relapse. Nevertheless, most individuals with healthy immune systems typically recover without medical intervention. Since May, over 11,000 cases of cyclosporiasis have been estimated across the United States.

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## Vocabulary List:

1. **outbreak** //ˈaʊtbreɪk// (noun): a sudden start of many disease cases
2. **recalled** //rɪˈkɔld// (verb): sent back because it may be unsafe
3. **cluster** //ˈklʌstər// (noun): a small group of related things or cases
4. **epidemiologist** //ˌɛpɪˌdiːmiˈɒlədʒɪst// (noun): a person who studies disease in people
5. **contaminated** //kənˈtæməˌneɪtɪd// (adjective): made dirty or harmful, often by germs
6. **relapse** //rɪˈlæps// (verb): to become sick again after getting better



## Comprehension Questions

### Multiple Choice

1. How many individuals contracted cyclosporiasis after consuming lettuce at Cheshire Medical Center?  
Option: 9  
Option: 10  
Option: 11  
Option: 16
2. Which company has recalled the implicated lettuce?  
Option: Taylor Farms  
Option: Dartmouth Health  
Option: Cheshire Medical Center  
Option: New Hampshire DHHS
3. As of the outbreak, how many individuals were identified as exposed to the parasite?  
Option: 10  
Option: 16  
Option: 9  
Option: 11
4. What has been temporarily suspended at Dartmouth Health due to the outbreak?  
Option: Surgery operations  
Option: Visiting hours  
Option: Salad bar options  
Option: Emergency services
5. What symptoms may indicate cyclosporiasis?  
Option: High fever  
Option: Persistent coughing  
Option: Watery diarrhea  
Option: Skin rash
6. When should individuals seek medical advice regarding consumption of lettuce at Cheshire Medical Center?



- Option: If they feel fine
- Option: If they experience severe or persistent watery diarrhea
- Option: Only if they have a fever
- Option: Immediately after eating

### **True-False**

7. The investigation into cyclosporiasis is limited to Cheshire Medical Center.
8. Health officials confirmed that no inpatients at Cheshire Medical Center reported cases of cyclosporiasis.
9. Symptoms of cyclosporiasis can appear within two weeks of consuming contaminated food.
10. Cyclosporiasis is a fatal disease.
11. Most individuals with healthy immune systems typically recover from cyclosporiasis without medical intervention.
12. There have been more than 11,000 estimated cases of cyclosporiasis in the United States since May.

### **Gap-Fill**

13. Nine individuals contracted cyclosporiasis after consuming lettuce served at the Cheshire Medical Center cafeteria in Keene, New Hampshire, according to state health officials. This outbreak, which is connected to a broader national issue, has prompted investigation into additional linked cases. The New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) is exploring further incidents associated with this \_\_\_\_\_.
14. Health officials confirmed that this product is no longer available at the facility, and the salad bar options have been temporarily \_\_\_\_\_ at Dartmouth Health.
15. Symptoms of cyclosporiasis may include watery diarrhea, appetite loss, weight loss, stomach cramps,



nausea, fatigue, and \_\_\_\_\_.

16. If untreated, symptoms may persist for weeks and may \_\_\_\_\_.

17. However, DHHS has urged anyone who consumed lettuce at the location between early June and July 20  
to seek medical advice if they experience severe or persistent \_\_\_\_\_.

18. While cyclosporiasis is not fatal, it can lead to significant gastrointestinal \_\_\_\_\_.

## Answer

**Multiple Choice:** 1. 9 2. Taylor Farms 3. 16 4. Salad bar options 5. Watery diarrhea 6. If they experience severe or persistent watery diarrhea

**True-False:** 7. False 8. True 9. True 10. False 11. True 12. True

**Gap-Fill:** 13. cluster 14. suspended 15. low-grade fever 16. relapse 17. watery diarrhea 18. discomfort

## CATEGORY

1. Business - LEVEL6

## POST TAG

1. cyclosporiasis
2. ESL learning
3. esl news
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5. lettuce
6. Level 6

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