

Key Takeaways

“*Cyclospora* Facts and What You Can Do Right Now”

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Top 5

1. While *Cyclospora cayetanensis* can infect people after consuming very few sporulated oocysts, the organism requires time in the environment, variable based on environmental conditions but generally assumed to be 1-2 weeks, as part of its life cycle before it is capable of infection.
2. Temperature is likely to be an important factor that dictates *Cyclospora* survival in the environment.
3. Detection of *Cyclospora* in the environment or on fresh produce samples remains a challenge, partially because oocysts in the environment or on produce may not be as numerous as in human fecal samples (where most accurate detection for human infection occurs).
4. There are many gaps in the data regarding what we know about *Cyclospora*; it will be important that future experiments aim to better understand the environmental conditions that impact *Cyclospora* persistence and prevalence.
5. Training workers about disease symptoms, good agricultural practices, and the importance of limiting the possibility of employee and produce exposure to human fecal contamination is critical to limiting *Cyclospora* risk.

Additional Questions and Answers

For any questions that were not addressed during the Q&A at the live webinar, please review the “Remaining Questions from ‘*Cyclospora* Facts and What You Can Do Right Now’” document on the CONTACT website.

Additional Reading

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- Shapiro K, Bahia-Oliveira L, Dixon B, et al (2019). Environmental transmission of *Toxoplasma gondii*: Oocysts in water, soil and food. *Food Waterborne Parasitol* 15:e00049. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.fawpar.2019.e00049>.
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