

## **Cryptosporidium spp.**

**Hazards:** Cryptosporidium is a parasite that causes diarrhea, abdominal pain, cramps, fever, vomiting, muscle pain, flatulence, nausea, anorexia, malaise, and fatigue. In healthy individuals, illness resolves on its own with symptoms lasting up to three weeks. Immunocompromised individuals may develop prolonged and chronic illness.

**Risks:** Transmission occurs through the fecal-oral route, direct contact with infected animals, contaminated food or water and aerosols (air-borne particles). The greatest risk of exposure to Cryptosporidium is during cage changes.

**Precautions:** Wear PPE during cage changes (gloves, gown, and booties). Use a biosafety cabinet during cage changes. Follow ABSL-2 procedures for bedding disposal. Wash hands after work.

**Emergency Response:** If you are working in this area and develop symptoms, tell your supervisor and report to Occupational Medicine. Potential exposures and illnesses must be reported to EHRS by your supervisor or manager.