

GIARDIASIS

Last revised June 20, 2011

I. IDENTIFICATION

A. **CLINICAL DESCRIPTION:** An illness caused by the protozoan *Giardia lamblia* and characterized by diarrhea, abdominal cramps, bloating, weight loss, or malabsorption. Infected persons may be asymptomatic.

B. **REPORTING CRITERIA:** Laboratory diagnosis.

C. **LABORATORY CRITERIA FOR CONFIRMATION:**

- Demonstration of *Giardia lamblia* cysts in stool, **OR**
- Demonstration of *Giardia lamblia* trophozoites in stool, duodenal fluid, or small bowel biopsy, **OR**
- Demonstration of *Giardia lamblia* antigen by specific immunodiagnostic test such as Direct Fluorescent Antigen (DFA).

D. **WISCONSIN CASE DEFINITION:** A case that is laboratory confirmed.

II. ACTIONS REQUIRED / PREVENTION MEASURES

A. **WISCONSIN DISEASE SURVEILLANCE CATEGORY II:**

Report to the patient's local health department either electronically through the Wisconsin Electronic Disease Surveillance System (WEDSS), by mail or fax using an Acute and Communicable Disease Case Report ([F-44151](#)), or by other means within 72 hours upon recognition of a case or suspected case.

B. **EPIDEMIOLOGY REPORTS REQUIRED:**

- *Electronically* – Report through WEDSS, including appropriate disease-specific tabs
OR
- *Paper Copy* – Acute and Communicable Diseases Case Report ([F-44151](#)).
- Routine Enteric Follow-up Worksheet – (*See page 1 of the Worksheet for specific recommendations regarding which sections are recommended during routine follow-up*).

C. **PUBLIC HEALTH INTERVENTIONS:**

In accordance with Wisconsin Administrative rule DHS 145.05, local public health should follow the methods of control recommended in the current edition of *Control of Communicable Diseases Manual*, edited by David L. Heymann, published by the American Public Health Association.

- Educate public about proper hand washing after using the toilet or handling contaminated clothing or linens, before cooking, or associating with high-risk individuals.
- Assess patient's activities for high-risk settings.
- Educate and advise high-risk patients and food handlers on enteric precautions.

Wisconsin Division of Public Health Communicable Disease Surveillance Guideline

- Source investigation by LHD.
- Determine if case is outbreak-related and notify DPH Regional Office or CDES.

III. CONTACTS FOR CONSULTATION

A. LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT – REGIONAL OFFICES – TRIBAL AGENCIES:

<http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/localhealth/index.htm>

B. BCDER / COMMUNICABLE DISEASE EPIDEMIOLOGY SECTION: (608) 267-9003

C. WISCONSIN STATE LABORATORY OF HYGIENE / BACTERIOLOGY: (608) 263-3421

IV. RELATED REFERENCES

- Heymann DL, ed. Giardiasis. In: *Control of Communicable Diseases Manual*. 19th ed. Washington, DC: American Public Health Association, 2008: 258-260.
- Pickering LK, ed. Giardiasis. In: *Red Book: 2009 Report of the Committee on Infectious Diseases*. 28th ed. Elk Grove Village, IL: American Academy of Pediatrics, 2009: 303-305.
- *Giardia Manual: Guidelines for Prevention and Control for Local Public Health Agencies*. Wisconsin Division of Public Health (7/01).
- Addiss DG, Davis JP, Roberts JM, Mast EE. Epidemiology of giardiasis in Wisconsin: Increasing incidence of reported cases and unexplained seasonal trends. *Am J Trop Med Hyg* 1992; 47:13-19.