

GIARDIASIS

- PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICIALS REPORT THE INCREASING FREQUENCY WITH WHICH GIARDIA IS BEING IMPLICATED AS THE CAUSE OF WATER-BORNE OUTBREAKS OF DIARRHEA.
- GIARDIASIS IS AN INTESTINAL DISEASE CAUSED BY GIARDIA LAMBLIA, A PROTOZOAN. ASSOCIATED SYMPTOMS INCLUDE CHRONIC DIARRHEA, ABDOMINAL CRAMPS, BLOATING, FATIGUE AND LOSS OF WEIGHT.
- TREATMENT BY A PHYSICIAN IS NECESSARY TO KILL THE ORGANISMS AND PRODUCE A CURE.
- GIARDIA ARE CARRIED BY HUMANS AND SOME DOMESTIC AND WILD ANIMALS. THEY GET INTO SURFACE WATER (LAKES, STREAMS, AND RIVERS) AND CONTAMINATE WATER SUPPLIES.
- WATER TREATMENT DISINFECTION CHEMICALS ARE NOT CONSIDERED AS RELIABLE AS HEAT IN KILLING GIARDIA.
- CARRY WATER FROM PUBLIC SUPPLIES IN CANTEENS OR BULK CONTAINERS.
- BACKCOUNTRY SURFACE WATER SHOULD BE BOILED FOR ONE MINUTE. THE EVENING MEAL IS AN IDEAL TIME TO BOIL WATER FOR DRINKING AND BRUSHING TEETH FOR THE NEXT DAYS USE.

INTERIM GUIDELINES
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