

# Cryptosporidium Qualitative Real-time PCR



*Cryptosporidium* is an intracellular parasite that infects the epithelium of gastrointestinal and respiratory tracts in mammals and causes watery diarrhea and cough, respectively. The two main culprits of human cryptosporidiosis are *C. parvum* and *C. hominis*. An extremely common water-borne pathogen, it can be spread via fecal-oral route and in respiratory secretions via aerosol droplets or fomites. Cryptosporidiosis can be fatal in immunocompromised hosts and has significant morbidity and mortality in pre-schooled-aged children in developing countries; survivors of cryptosporidiosis often experience growth retardation and cognitive deficits. Real-time PCR provides a rapid and sensitive method to determine the presence of target-specific amplifiable nucleic acids in all samples intended for PCR.<sup>1,2</sup> For more information, call the lab at 513-636-9820.

## Reporting Units:

Positive/Negative

## Unacceptable Specimens:

- Frozen whole blood
- Swabs in gel or charcoal media

## Shipping Conditions:

- Ambient if sent within 24 hours
- On wet ice if sent >24 hours after collection

## Testing Schedule:

*Cryptosporidium* testing is performed Mon-Fri on first shift. For testing outside of this schedule, call the lab at 513-636-9820. TAT: 1-3 days

## CPT Codes:

87272

## Contact Information:

Cincinnati Children's Division of Pathology  
Molecular and Genomic Pathology Services

Phone: 513-636-9820

Fax: 513-803-2941

Email: [pathology@cchmc.org](mailto:pathology@cchmc.org)

Website: [cincinnatichildrens.org/pathology](http://cincinnatichildrens.org/pathology)

For pricing or billing questions, call 513-636-9264.

## Shipping Address:

Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center

Lab Processing, B4.127

Attn: Molecular and Genomic Pathology Services (MGPS)

3333 Burnet Ave.

Cincinnati, OH 45229

## References:

1. "Parasites – Cryptosporidium (also known as "Crypto")". <https://www.cdc.gov/parasites/crypto/>. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Atlanta, GA. Last revised January 12, 2017.
2. Sponseller J, Griffiths J, Tzipori S. The evolution of respiratory cryptosporidiosis: evidence for transmission by inhalation. *Clin Microbiol Rev*. 27:575-586. 2014.

Sample Type	Volume Needed	Collection Container
Body Fluids (i.e. pericardial, pleural)	1mL	Sterile Container
Stool	1mL or 0.3g	Sterile Container
Rectal swab*	n/a	Red or Green Culturette Swab
Fresh tissue (preferred)**	0.3g	Sterile Container
FFPE tissue (consultation required)***	8x10um scrolls	n/a
Urine	1mL	Sterile Container

\* Red or green top culturette swabs preferred; viral transport media acceptable.

\*\* Wrap tissue in gauze wetted slightly with sterile saline to keep moist during transport.

\*\*\* Call the Pathology administrative office at 513-636-4261

Clinical Lab Index:

Crypto: <https://www.testmenu.com/cincinnatichildrens/Tests/932061>