

## ***What is amoebiasis?***

- An intestinal illness caused by a parasite called *Entamoeba histolytica*.

## ***How does a person get amoebiasis?***

- Amoebiasis is spread by:
  - drinking water or eating food contaminated with the parasite
  - person-to-person contact
  - sexual contact
- Travelers to tropical or subtropical areas are at greater risk.

## ***What are the signs and symptoms?***

- Often a person will have no symptoms.
- If symptoms occur, they appear two to four weeks following infection, but can occur months or years later.
- Symptoms may include chills, fever, stomach cramps, diarrhea with blood or mucous, constipation, and weight loss.

## ***How is amoebiasis treated?***

- See your doctor for antibiotic treatment.

## ***How is amoebiasis prevented?***

- Always wash hands thoroughly:
  - after using the toilet
  - after diapering a child
  - before and after preparing or handling food
  - before eating
- Avoid drinking untreated water.
- Wash or peel all fruits and vegetables before eating.
- If travelling internationally, refer to “Food and Water Safety” (DC-54).
- Do not attend daycare, school, or place of work if symptoms are present.

## ***Quick Facts***

- intestinal infection
- caused by a parasite
- good handwashing reduces spread
- may be found in untreated water

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For more information contact Population and Public Health at **306-655-4612**

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