

Water Words Dictionary—Appendix B–5

WATERBORNE DISEASES

Primary Waterborne Diseases by Organism, Source and Symptom

Waterborne Diseases	Causative Organism	Source of Organism in Water	Symptom(s)
Gastroenteritis	Rotavirus	Human feces	Acute diarrhea or vomiting
	<i>Salmonella</i> (bacterium)	Animal or human feces	Acute diarrhea and vomiting
	Enteropathogenic <i>E. Coli</i>	Human feces	Acute diarrhea or vomiting
Typhoid	<i>Salmonella typhosa</i> (bacterium)	Human feces	Inflamed intestine, enlarged spleen, high temperature—sometimes fatal
Dysentery	<i>Shigella</i> (bacterium)	Human feces	Diarrhea—rarely fatal
Cholera	<i>Vibrio comma</i> (bacterium)	Human feces	Vomiting, severe diarrhea, rapid dehydration, mineral loss—high mortality
Infectious hepatitis	Hepatitis A (virus)	Human feces, shellfish grown in polluted waters	Yellowed skin, enlarged liver, abdominal pain—low mortality, lasts up to 4 months
Amoebic dysentery	<i>Entamoeba histolytica</i> (protozoan)	Human feces	Mild diarrhea, chronic dysentery
Giardiasis	<i>Giardia lamblia</i> (protozoan)	Animal or human feces	Diarrhea, cramps, nausea, and general weakness—not fatal, lasts 1 week to 30 weeks
Cryptosporidiosis	<i>Cryptosporidium</i> (protozoan)	Animal or human feces	Diarrhea, stomach pain—lasts an average of 5 days

Sources: Adapted from American Water Works Association, **Introduction to Water Treatment: Principles and Practices of Water Supply Operations**, Denver, Colorado, 1984, and reprinted from **Environmental Pollution Control Alternatives: Drinking Water Treatment for Small Communities**, Center for Environmental Research Information, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Cincinnati, Ohio, April 1990, page 4.