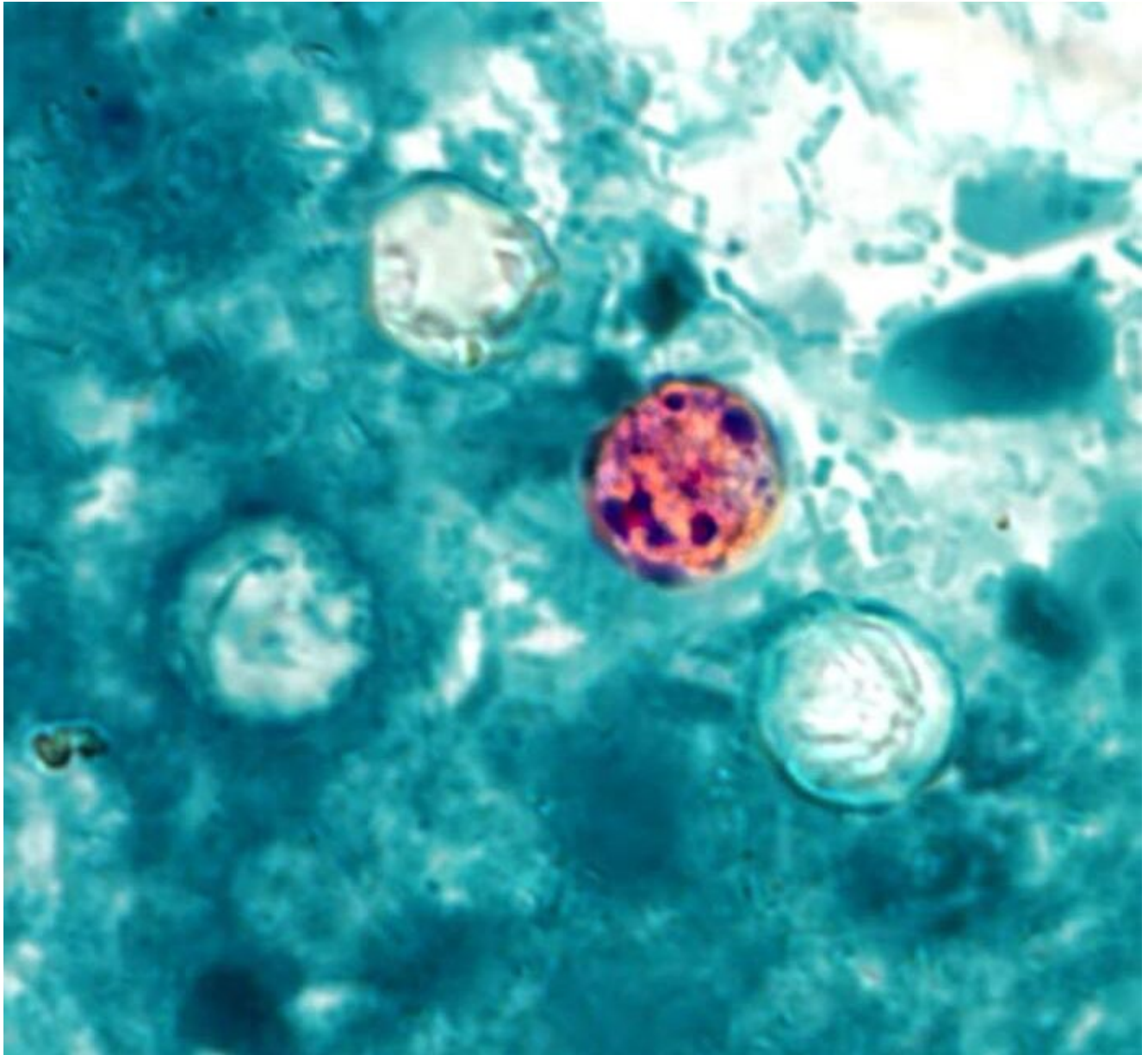


Michigan sees explosive outbreak of diarrheal parasite with over 700 cases



Cases of a diarrhea-causing intestinal parasite have exploded in Michigan over the last two weeks in an outbreak that still has no clear source.

As of July 6, the state has received reports of over 700 cases since June 22, along with 36 hospitalizations, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHSS) told Ars Technica on Tuesday.

On June 30, the health department reported 170 cases, which rose to 572 on July 4.

The microscopic unicellular parasite *Cyclospora cayetanensis* is behind the cases, causing a disease called cyclosporiasis. Although the infection is generally not life-threatening, it usually causes “watery diarrhea with frequent and sometimes explosive bowel movements,” according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. These intestinal eruptions usually last about a week, but can go on for two or more weeks, the CDC says, with dehydration being one of the most significant concerns.

The parasite is shed in feces and spreads by getting on produce and into water. Thoroughly washing and cleaning produce before eating, along with diligent hand hygiene, are key prevention methods.

State and national trends

Previous outbreaks have been linked to bagged salad mixes/kits, cilantro, basil, raspberries, snow peas, and green onions, MDHSS has noted.

“At this time, no specific produce grower, supplier or type of produce has been identified as the source,” an MDHSS spokesperson told Ars. But the state is coordinating a large investigation to identify a source or sources, working with local health departments in the southeastern region of the state, where most of the cases have been reported. Officials are interviewing cases, sharing information, and ultimately trying to identify common exposures. The spokesperson said MDHSS is also coordinating with the CDC and has shared the state’s case data with the agency.

<https://arstechnica.com/health/2026/07/michigan-sees-explosive-outbreak-of-diarrheal-parasite-with-over-700-cases/>