



Department of Health and Human Services
Health and Environmental Testing Laboratory
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Dear HETL Client:

HETL is pleased to announce the launch of a new real time polymerase chain reaction (PCR) assay for *Cryptosporidium* species. The test is designed to detect a variety of species of *Cryptosporidium* including *C. parvum* and *C. hominis* in human stool.

This real time PCR assay offers superior sensitivity and specificity compared with a number of traditional/conventional methodologies for detection of the *Cryptosporidium* parasite in human stool.

HETL clients can now order the test directly on a fee for testing basis. HETL will continue to provide the test to clinical submitters on a fee waived basis during outbreak investigations conducted by MeCDC. More specific information for clients can be found at our web site (www.mainepublichealth.gov/lab). Find the link on our home page entitled: "Microbiology Testing: How to Submit Samples" and download the document entitled "Cryptosporidium".

Please feel free to contact HETL bacteriology with specific question about the *Cryptosporidium* real time PCR test at 207-287-1704.

Sincerely,

Kenneth G. Pote, Ph.D.
Chief of Laboratory Operations
Me-CDC Health and Environmental Testing Laboratory