

Laboratory Test Update: *Cyclospora cayetanensis* PCR

This communication is from:

Jieli Shirley Li, M.D., Ph.D.
Director, Clinical Pathology Services
Co-Director, Clinical Chemistry and Toxicology Laboratory

On behalf of:

Preeti Pancholi, Ph.D.
Co-Director, Clinical Microbiology Laboratory

Applicable to: OSUWMC, The James and East Hospitals Medical Staff, and University Reference Laboratory Clients

SUMMARY OF TEST CHANGE

To improve diagnostic turnaround time and support timely clinical decision-making, the Clinical Microbiology Laboratory has developed and validated a new in-house ***Cyclospora cayetanensis* PCR assay**.

Currently, ***Cyclospora* staining** is referred to Mayo Clinic Laboratories. Due to increased testing volumes associated with recent *Cyclospora* outbreaks, turnaround times for the send-out test have been highly variable and may extend to **up to 21 days**. Beginning **August 25, 2026**, the new in-house PCR assay will replace routine *Cyclospora* staining and will be available for clinical ordering.

NEW TEST INFORMATION

Test Name: *Cyclospora cayetanensis* PCR

Test Code: LABCYCLOCAYPCR

Turnaround Time: 72 hours

Preferred Specimen:

- Stool Kit, Orange Top (Cary-Blair)

Acceptable Specimens:

- Stool Kit, White Top
- Sterile Container

Specimen Stability:

- Refrigerated: 5 days
- Ambient: 24 hours

CHANGE TO CYCLOSPORA STAINING

Effective **August 25, 2026**, *Cyclospora* staining will no longer be available as a routinely orderable test.

If *Cyclospora* staining is specifically required after this date, the ordering provider must contact the **Send-Out Laboratory Team** at sendouts@osumc.edu for review and approval. Upon approval, the test may be ordered as a miscellaneous send-out test.

The transition to in-house PCR testing is expected to provide significantly faster results than the current send-out assay while also offering improved sensitivity for the detection of ***Cyclospora cayetanensis***. These enhancements will support more timely diagnosis, patient management, and treatment decisions.

RESOURCES

Please contact the Microbiology Laboratory at **614-366-0639** with any questions regarding this testing change.

See the online test catalog for more information - [The Ohio State Wexner Medical Center Labs Test Catalog](#)

