# Cryptosporidium outbreak linked to Cowbridge Farm lamb feeding rises to 47 cases



An investigation has been initiated by Public Health Wales following an outbreak of a parasitic infection associated with calf and lamb feeding sessions at Cowbridge Farm Shop, located in the Vale of Glamorgan. Initially reported on Wednesday, the number of individuals believed to have contracted the infection has surged from 28 to 47, with health officials anticipating additional cases will emerge in the coming weeks.

The infection in question is caused by Cryptosporidium, a parasite commonly linked to gastrointestinal illnesses. It is often transmitted through contact with animals, especially young livestock. Symptoms of infection can include watery diarrhoea, stomach pain, nausea, and typically manifest between two to ten days following exposure, with the duration extending up to two weeks.

In light of the rising case numbers, Cowbridge Farm Shop has voluntarily halted all public animal feeding activities and is cooperating fully with the ongoing investigation led by Public Health Wales. Su Mably, a consultant in health protection with the agency, remarked on the situation, stating, “We are continuing to investigate this outbreak with our partners.” Mably further noted that while the infection tends to be mild for most individuals, it poses greater health risks for young children and those with compromised immune systems.

Public Health Wales has advised visitors who feel unwell after attending the farm to consult their GP or contact NHS 111. The health agency has also cautioned the public to be aware of the potential health risks associated with petting farms, particularly advising pregnant women to avoid contact with newborn lambs during lambing season.

As the investigation continues, health officials are urging vigilance in monitoring symptoms, especially among those who have interacted with the animals at Cowbridge Farm Shop. The situation underscores the need for proper health awareness and hygiene practices when visiting livestock farms.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.health.ny.gov/diseases/communicable/cryptosporidiosis/fact_sheet.htm> - This page provides detailed information on Cryptosporidiosis, including its symptoms, transmission methods, and preventive measures, corroborating the article's mention of the infection's symptoms and transmission through contact with animals, especially young livestock.
2. <https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/cryptosporidiosis/basics.html> - This resource outlines the transmission of Cryptosporidium, highlighting that contact with animals, particularly calves and goats, can lead to infection, supporting the article's claim about the infection being linked to calf and lamb feeding sessions.
3. <https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/animal/animal.html> - This page discusses zoonotic diseases transmitted through contact with animals, emphasizing that Cryptosporidium is one of the germs found at petting zoos and fairs, aligning with the article's mention of the infection being associated with petting farms.
4. <https://www.hhs.iowa.gov/center-acute-disease-epidemiology/epi-manual/reportable-diseases/cryptosporidiosis> - This document details the transmission modes of Cryptosporidium, including person-to-person and animal-to-person, and notes that infected animals can shed the parasite in their feces, supporting the article's information on transmission through contact with infected animals.
5. <https://phw.nhs.wales/news/cryptosporidium-and-open-farms/> - This Public Health Wales page provides guidance on preventing Cryptosporidium infection, emphasizing the importance of washing hands after handling animals, which supports the article's advice for visitors to consult their GP or contact NHS 111 if they feel unwell after attending the farm.
6. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/infection-risk-at-petting-farms-phe-urges-good-hand-hygiene> - This UK government news release highlights the infection risk at petting farms and urges good hand hygiene, aligning with the article's mention of Public Health Wales advising visitors to be aware of potential health risks associated with petting farms.
7. <https://www.southwalesargus.co.uk/news/25136375.visitors-infected-cowbridge-farm-petting-session-rises/?ref=rss> - Please view link - unable to able to access data