

Refugee Health Microlearning Series: Intestinal Parasites Transcript

UPDATED 9/26/2022

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Refugee Health Screening: Intestinal Parasites

- Hello and welcome to the micro-learning series presented by the Refugee Health Program at the Minnesota Department of Health. This series is meant to help providers, clinical teams, and public health better understand best practices for refugee health screenings. This video focuses on **Intestinal Parasite** screening guidance during refugee health assessments.

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What you need to know

Who?

- All arrivals should be screened for signs and symptoms of intestinal parasites and evaluated for eosinophilia by obtaining a CBC with differential.
- Additional screening protocol depends on country of origin and pre-departure treatment.

What?

- Generally, asylees, Special Immigrant Visa-holders, certified victims of human trafficking, and parolees do not receive presumptive pre-departure treatment.
- If no pre-departure treatment was received, provide presumptive treatment or conduct a “test and treat” approach.
 - Presumptive Ivermectin therapy should not be given to newcomers from *Loa Loa*-endemic regions, unless *Loa Loa* can be ruled out.
 - Laboratory testing may include stool ova and parasite, *Strongyloides* IgG serology, *Schistosoma* IgG serology, and/or *Giardia* stool antigen

When?

- Intestinal parasite screening should occur during the initial refugee health assessment.

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Presumptive Treatment

- Presumptive treatment is generally found on the last page of the overseas medical paperwork.

- If no presumptive treatment is documented, assume it was not given.

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Updates in Guidance

Is this different from previous MDH guidance?

- This updated guidance includes clearer guidance on presumptive treatment and “test and treat” approach.
- Recommendations to screen for giardiasis using stool antigen.
- *Loa Loa* recommendations include avoiding presumptive treatment with Ivermectin for arrivals from *Loa Loa*-endemic regions and recommendations on *Loa Loa* screening for arrivals who are at significant risk of *Strongyloides* and did not receive pre-departure treatment with Ivermectin.

Is this different from national guidance?

- State guidelines do not differ from national guidelines; however, Minnesota has specific resources for providers.

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Report Screening Results

As part of the paperwork for the Refugee Health Assessment that is submitted to the Refugee Health Program, there is a section where intestinal parasite screening results can be recorded. Please make sure this section is being filled out appropriately.

- Please mark “not done” if arrival was not tested.
- There are two sections for results: serology and O&P results. The bottom section is only for O&P results. Please mark serology results only in section 2.
- Please mark if non-pathogenic parasites were found in an O&P test.

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Resources to learn more

- If you’re interested in learning more, please look at the full screening guidance and other resources outlined in this page.

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Thank you

- The well-being of all Minnesotans, including those with refugee status, depends on the work and dedication of our partners. Thank you so much for your work.

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