Memorandum – Micro #256

To: UNC Health Attending Physicians, Faculty Practice Physicians, Housestaff, Clinical Nurse Coordinators, Department Heads and Supervisors

From: Melissa B. Miller, PhD
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Date: July 13, 2026

Subject: Cyclospora testing

A nationwide *Cyclospora* outbreak is ongoing, and the source has not yet been identified. Over 250 cases have been reported in NC to date.

Cyclospora testing is available through the GI Pathogen Panel [LAB6053] at UNCMC Clinical Microbiology Laboratory. The GI Panel is preferred to the *Cyclospora* stain [LAB5079] offered by reference laboratories due to increased sensitivity, improved specimen stability (leading to fewer cancellations), and faster turnaround time. Since symptoms of *Cyclospora* are not distinguishable from those of other diarrheal pathogens, it is recommended to continue using the GI Panel during the outbreak.

Details about the GI Panel offered at UNCMC McLendon Laboratories, including collection information, are here. If the fecal swab is not available, you may send the liquid stool in a sterile container.

Questions can be directed to the UNCMC Clinical Microbiology Lab at 984-974-1805 or Dr. Melissa Miller at Melissa.Miller@unchealth.unc.edu.