

Prevention of Infectious Diseases Associated with Sewage Exposure

What are the health risks?

Exposure to open sewage can be harmful to a person's health. There is the potential for the spread of various infectious diseases caused by bacteria (e.g., *E.coli*, *Salmonella*, *Campylobacter*), viruses (e.g., hepatitis A), and parasites (e.g., *Giardia*, *Cryptosporidium*).

Can they be prevented?

Prevention is key. Below are some simple steps you can take to prevent the spread of these diseases if you live in an area with the potential for open sewage exposure.



Wear shoes when walking outside



Maintain good hand hygiene, especially after using the restroom and before eating



When cleaning up backflow of sewage, wear rubber boots and waterproof gloves



Wash food properly before cooking or eating



Avoid using human feces (poop) as fertilizer

If you think you might be sick from sewage exposure, please contact your healthcare provider.