

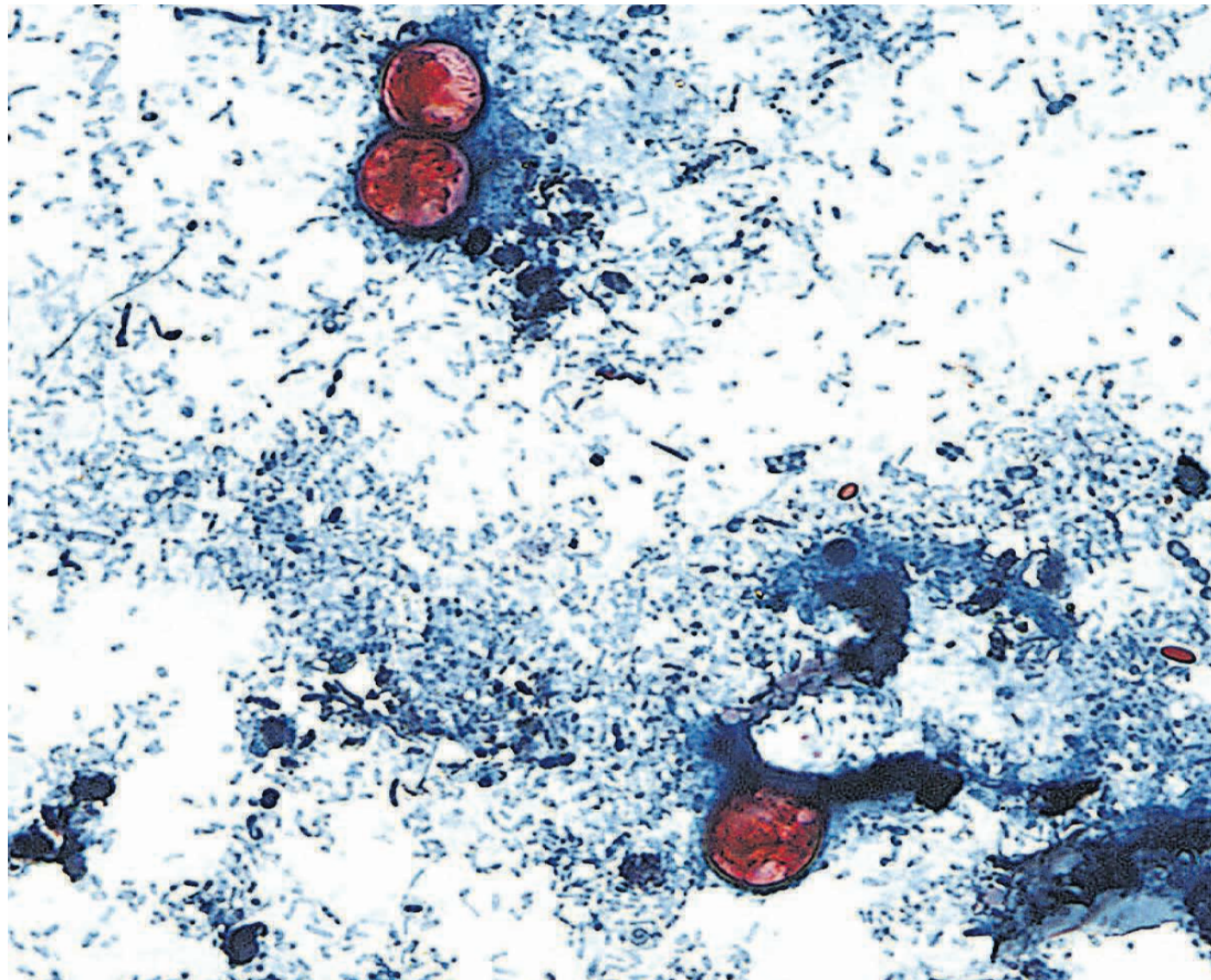


NEWEST VOTER

CITY COUNCILMEMBER FRANK MORANO AND HIS WIFE, RACHEL, WELCOME THEIR NEWEST FAMILY MEMBER, COLETTE CELIA MORANO, BORN MONDAY AT RICHMOND UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER. **A4**

HEALTH

Stomach-bug parasite is spreading across states



Cyclospora is a microscopic, spherical parasite that commonly causes watery diarrhea. Cyclospora surges can be tricky to investigate. The best way to prevent infection is to avoid food or water that may have been contaminated. *CDC file*

The source of the cyclospora infections hasn't been identified, but you can take measures to protect yourself.

Mike Stobbe *Associated Press*

Health officials in several states, including Michigan, Ohio and New York are reporting higher numbers of cyclospora infections, a parasitic infection that can cause weeks of watery diarrhea.

Nearly 1,000 people in Michigan alone have been diagnosed with the parasitic infection, making it the largest such outbreak in state history and one of the nation's largest in years.

No deaths have been reported and the source of the cyclospora infections hasn't been identified. Investigations into similar illnesses have been going on in at least 29 states.

Michigan officials first announced the outbreak last week, when they were aware of more than 170 cases — all in the southeastern corner of the state — since June 22. Michigan usually identifies only about 50 cases each year.

Michigan reported about 40 hospitalizations. Just across the state line, Lucas County, Ohio, reported 306 cases. North-



Fresh produce should be thoroughly washed before being eaten. But cyclospora can really stick to some foods, especially raspberries. *Chris Sweda, Chicago Tribune*

west Ohio has seen more than 500 cases.

Cyclospora surges can be tricky to investigate, and food poisoning sources can be hard to establish. But "there is clearly a linked outbreak happening right now," said Dr. Natasha Bagdasarjian, Michigan's chief medical executive. Here's what to know about the current situation:

WHAT IS CYCLOSPORA?

Cyclospora is a microscopic, spherical parasite that commonly causes watery diar-

rhea "with frequent and sometimes explosive bowel movements," according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The illness, called cyclosporiasis, is not usually life threatening and is typically treated with antibiotics. Outbreaks tend to occur most often in the late spring and summer.

The heat-loving parasite infects the bowels and spreads through feces. In the past, people have been infected by consuming fruits or vegetables that were exposed to feces-contaminated irrigation water.

It's less common than a number of other kinds of foodborne illnesses, including salmonella and E. coli. For years, few U.S. cyclospora outbreaks were reported each year. But the number started rising about a decade ago, with a particularly notable spike in 2018 and 2019. Experts attribute the increases to climate change and better detection.

PREVIOUS OUTBREAKS

Comprehensive data on cyclospora outbreaks is lacking. But available information shows only a small number of documented outbreaks in the last 20 years have surpassed 1,000 cases. That short list includes a 1997 outbreak tied to Guatemalan raspberries that sickened more than 1,000 in the U.S. and Canada, and a 2019 outbreak linked to Mexican basil that sickened more than 2,400.

SEE STOMACH-BUG PARASITE, A2

ing to a law-enforcement source.

The criminal complaint alleges that Calcagno, who practiced at 900 South Avenue in Bloomfield, misrepresented himself as an attorney when he collected fees for legal work between Oct. 3 and 21, 2025.

The defendant accepted payments of about \$2,145 from a 70-year-old woman and \$4,700 from a 67-year-old woman after he was disbarred, according to a law-enforcement source.

Months before, in April 2025, the defendant allegedly accepted payment from a victim to prepare a trust and then failed to complete the agreed-upon legal work. The April victim did not receive either a refund

STATEN ISLAND

Pregnant teacher sues DOE over alleged assault, retaliation

Lauren Vitale claims she was kicked by a student while pregnant and later removed from her teaching position after raising safety concerns.

Nicolette Cavallaro
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A Staten Island teacher alleges in a lawsuit against the city Department of Education that she was kicked by a student while pregnant and later discontinued from her position in retaliation for raising workplace safety concerns.

Lauren Vitale, 31, of Arden Heights, was teaching at PS 84 in Stapleton when she was assaulted by a student while six months pregnant, according to her Manhattan Supreme Court suit.

The alleged assault occurred on Jan. 21, 2026 — the student's first day in Vitale's classroom.

According to the complaint, the student kicked Vitale directly in her abdomen and spat in her face.

The lawsuit alleges the student had a documented history of violent behavior that was not disclosed to Vitale, and that the student's individualized education program mandated a one-to-one paraprofessional that was not provided.

According to the complaint, Vitale suffered blunt-force abdominal trauma and was sent to a hospital's labor and delivery department. The lawsuit says she experienced bleeding, cramping, decreased fetal movement and high blood pressure and was not medically cleared to return to work. Vitale alleges in the complaint that she was then terminated on April 13, 2026, following months of alleged retaliation that began after she reported previous workplace safety violations, including the attack.

According to the complaint, the alleged discrimination began years ago, during **SEE TEACHER SUES, A2**

WAR IN THE MIDDLE EAST

Strikes exchanged

The United States has launched new airstrikes against Iran, and Tehran has responded by targeting Gulf countries, threatening hopes for a ceasefire. **A5**

OBITUARY

'Eclipse' singer dies

Bonnie Tyler, the Welsh pop star known for "Total Eclipse of the Heart," has died at 75. Her iconic song, boosted by real eclipses, has over 1 billion streams. **A10**

Disbarred S.I. attorney kept practicing law, D.A.'s office says

Pasquale Calcagno is arrested following an investigation.

Staten Island Advance

Authorities allege that a Staten Island attorney who was disbarred continued to practice law, accepting thousands of dollars in payments from unsuspecting victims.

Pasquale Calcagno, 52, of Rockne Street in New Springville, who was disbarred on Oct. 1, 2025, was arrested on the morning of June 26 following an investigation by the Staten Island District Attorney's Detective Investigator Squad.

The graduate of Brooklyn Law School failed to inform victims that he was no longer an attorney and collected fees for legal work that he often did not perform, accord-

