

## **Disease Fact Sheet: Clostridium perfringens**

### **FOUND:**

soil, dust, sewage, and intestinal tracts of animals and humans. Grows only in little or no oxygen.

### **TRANSMISSION:**

called "the cafeteria germ" because many outbreaks result from food left for long periods in steam tables or at room temperature. Bacteria destroyed by cooking, but some toxin-producing spores may survive.

### **SYMPTOMS:**

diarrhea and gas pains may appear 8 to 24 hours after eating; usually last about 1 day, but less severe symptoms may persist for 1 to 2 weeks.