Water-borne pathogens are found throughout the United States. They exist both in recreational water and drinking water. Recreational water includes swimming pools, hot tubs, lakes, and oceans. In the United States, *Giardia lamblia* and Norovirus are prevalent water-borne pathogens that can be contracted through primary or secondary exposure to contaminated water. *Giardia lamblia* is a protozoan that causes diarrheal illnesses. Its life cycle, which consists of a cyst and a trophozoite stage, affects its infective abilities. *Giardia lamblia* is transmitted in the cyst stage. In the body of an organism, it becomes a trophozoite that causes the illness. Giardiasis is endemic to every area in the United States. However, it can be prevented through the practice of good hygiene and by maintaining a clean water supply. Norovirus is the genus name for a group of similar viruses that is the most common cause of the gastrointestinal “stomach flu”. It is transmitted through feces and vomit, and it is highly infective. Norovirus is found in water, food, and surfaces that have been contaminated by fecal matter. Currently, no medicines exist to treat the illness, but it can be prevented through good hygiene practices. Norovirus has recently received media attention due to an outbreak at a water park in upstate New York where nearly 400 people became ill. The attention has highlighted its prevalence and its effect on the public.