

E-COLI 0157:H7 DIARRHEA
(Reportable disease - Report to Local Health Agency)

IMMUNIZATION: None

INCUBATION PERIOD: From 10 hours to 6 days, usually 3 to 4 days

SYMPTOMS: Diarrhea, initially nonbloody progressing to grossly bloody; severe abdominal pain, and in one third of cases, fever. Late sequelae includes hemolytic-uremic syndrome (HUS)

PERIOD OF COMMUNICABILITY:
While organism still present in feces

MODE OF TRANSMISSION:
Fecal-oral route; contaminated food or water, other beverage via unwashed hands of infected persons or carriers or fecal contamination (by humans or animals) of water supply. Undercooked meat and unpasteurized milk are also vehicles for spread of this germ.

- Strict attention to handwashing before handling food, drinks and after using the toilet is essential.

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE:
For single cases, exclusion until diarrhea has stopped and 2 stool cultures are negative for E-Coli 0157:H7.

If outbreak is present, center should be closed to new admissions. Care must be taken to prevent transfer of children to other child care centers. Consult State Health Department, Bureau of Communicable Disease Control.

CONTACTS/FOLLOW-UP:
Observe all children for signs of diarrhea. If diarrhea present, exclude from school until culture taken and results are known.