

Confidential
GPs

Date 03 August 2022
Our Ref HPT24278
Enquiries to Health Protection Team
Direct Line Direct Line 0300 790 6264
Email: Health.Protection@nhsllothian.scot.nhs.uk

Dear Colleague

E.COLI O157 CASES ASSOCIATED WITH PEAR TREE NURSERY, CHURCH St, HADDINGTON

NHS Lothian Health Protection Team have been made aware of cases of E.coli O157 infection at the Pear Tree Nursery. There are also reports of people at the nursery who have been affected by diarrhoea in the past few weeks. We are working with the nursery and the East Lothian Environmental Health Department to investigate the situation.

Meantime, as a precaution, the Health Protection Team are requesting that **all children and staff** at Pear Tree Nursery submit a stool sample as soon as possible to ensure they are not carrying the infection, a second sample will be required to complete the clearance criteria.

The staff and parents have been asked to submit two samples, taken at least 24 hours apart, to their GP for delivery to the laboratories. We would be grateful if you can supply your patient with two stool pots, one marked as 'sample 1' and one marked as 'sample 2', this will help the lab to direct samples for the correct test as the first sample will be for PCR, the second for culture.

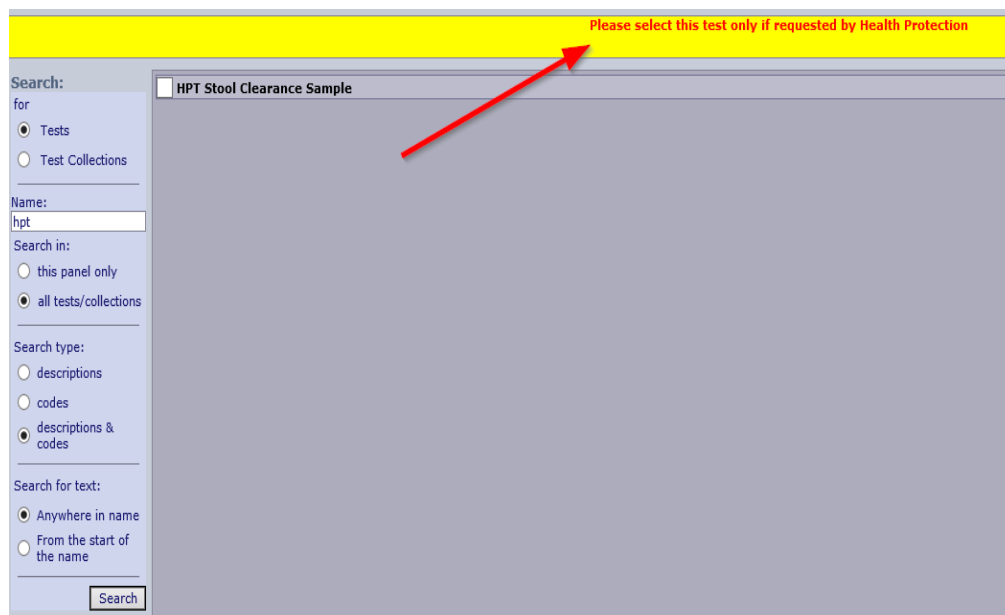
The Health Protection Team will give all sample results to patients.

Important information on submitting samples the requested samples

Patient's samples need to be processed at the Scottish E.coli Reference Laboratory (SERL). The samples must be labelled with the date and time of when the sample was taken (not when the label was printed). The patients will be advised to write the date and time of the sample on the label. Once submitted to your practice the samples should be sent to SERL for testing.

You can find the correct label by searching for 'HPT' in your clinical system (ICE), the date of collection must be put on the container by the patient.
Please add the code '**HPT24278**' on the request form.

Please see image below for information on ICE:



The image shows a search interface for 'HPT Stool Clearance Sample'. A red arrow points to a yellow banner at the top of the search results area that reads 'Please select this test only if requested by Health Protection'. The search interface includes a search bar with 'hpt' entered, and several filter options: 'Search for:' (Tests selected), 'Search in:' (all tests/collections selected), 'Search type:' (descriptions & codes selected), and 'Search for text:' (Anywhere in name selected). A 'Search' button is located at the bottom left of the search area.

I would like to stress the importance of notifying the Health Protection Team of any currently symptomatic cases of diarrhoea or vomiting in children you see over the next few days, especially those who attend Pear Tree Nursery.

Can I also stress to you that if you do see any children from this nursery with suspected E.coli O157 infection current national guidance states that:

- Patients with bloody diarrhoea should not be treated with antimotility drugs;
- Patients with bloody diarrhoea should not be treated routinely with antibiotics because of the theoretical risk of promoting HUS.

Please do not hesitate to contact the Health Protection Team on 0300 790 6264 if you require any further information.

Yours sincerely



Josie Murray
Consultant in Public Health