

Confidential
GPs

Date 19 August 2022
Our Ref HPT24278
Enquiries to Health Protection Team
Direct Line Direct Line 0300 790 6264
Email: Health.Protection@nhslothian.scot.nhs.uk

Dear Colleague

E.COLI O157 CASES ASSOCIATED WITH PEAR TREE NURSERY, MEADOWPARK, HADDINGTON (18 August 2022)

Updating our letter of 3 August 2022 about Pear Tree Nursery, Church Street, Haddington, the NHS Lothian Health Protection Team have now also been made aware of cases of E.coli O157 infection at Pear Tree Nursery, Meadowpark, Haddington. 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. The nursery was asked to close 12 August 2022.

Meantime, as a precaution, the Health Protection Team are requesting that **all children and staff** at Pear Tree Nursery, Meadowpark, submit **two separate stool** samples, at least 24 hours apart:

- The first – as soon as possible – to ensure they are not carrying the infection
- The second – at least 24 hours later – to complete the clearance criteria.

Staff and parents have been asked to submit their samples 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. Each sample will also need a separate ICE label as detailed below, not obscuring the numbering of the sample (i.e. sample 1 and sample 2 as detailed above).

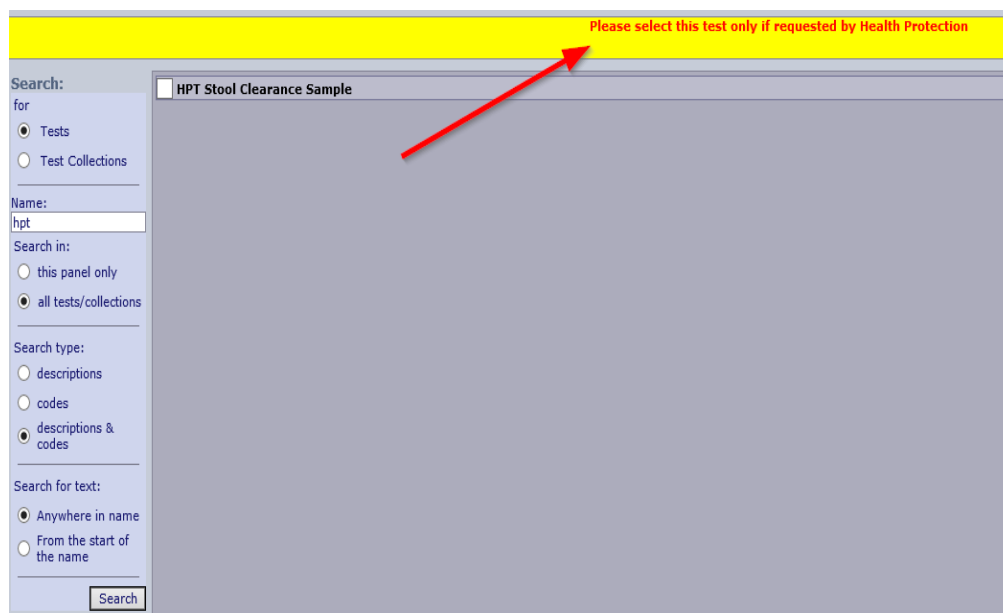
The Health Protection Team will give results to patients, and give further advice or lift exclusions at that point. GP practices must not share results with families.

Important information on submitting samples the requested samples

The samples need to be sent to the Scottish E.coli Reference Laboratory (SERL). The samples must be labelled with the patient details and 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 lab 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 '**HPT24369**' on the request form.

Please see image below for information on ICE:



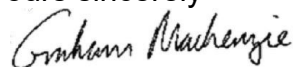
I would like to stress the importance of notifying the Health Protection Team of any currently symptomatic cases of diarrhoea or vomiting in children you see over the next few days, especially those who attend Pear Tree Nursery or have links with the nursery.

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 haemolytic uraemic syndrome.

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

Yours sincerely



Graham Mackenzie, Consultant in Public Health Medicine