

**Confidential**  
A&Es and Out of Hours GPs

Date 19 August 2022  
Our Ref HPT/GM  
Enquiries to Health Protection Team  
Direct Line Direct Line 0300 790 6264  
Email: [Health.Protection@nhslothian.scot.nhs.uk](mailto:Health.Protection@nhslothian.scot.nhs.uk)

Dear Colleague

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

I am writing about E. coli O157 cases at two branches of Pear Tree Nurseries in Haddington: Church Street and Meadowpark branches. There are also reports of people at the nurseries who have been affected by diarrhoea in the past few weeks. We are working with the nurseries and the East Lothian Environmental Health Department to investigate the situation.

Meantime, as a precaution, the Health Protection Team has asked that the nurseries close and staff and children submit **two separate stool** samples, at least 24 hours apart (handed into GP surgeries, but with results shared only by the Health Protection Team).

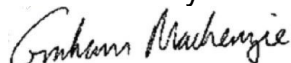
I would like to stress the importance of notifying the Health Protection Team of any currently symptomatic cases of diarrhoea or vomiting in children you see over the next few days, especially those who attend Pear Tree Nursery branches in Haddington or the wider East Lothian area. If you do review patients, and they provide you with a stool sample, please could you highlight link with the nursery on the sample request details, writing HPT24369 on the request.

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



**Dr Graham Mackenzie, Consultant in Public Health Medicine**