

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

Date 25 August 2022  
Our Ref HPT/24393  
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 MUSSELBURGH PRIVATE NURSERY,  
BRIDGE STREET**

I am writing about E. coli O157 cases in Musselburgh Private Nursery. There are also reports of people at the nursery who have been affected by diarrhoea in the past few weeks, some of whom have had norovirus. 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 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). An NHS 24 helpline has been set up for this outbreak, on 0800 22 44 88.

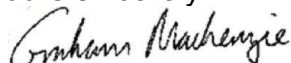
I would like to stress the importance of notifying the Health Protection Team of any currently symptomatic cases of diarrhoea or vomiting in children you see over the next few days, especially those who attend Musselburgh Private Nursery or the wider East Lothian area. If you do review patients, and they provide you with a stool sample, please could you highlight link with the nursery on the sample request details, writing HPT24393 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**