

Confidential
A&Es and Out of Hours GPs

Date 27 August 2022
Our Ref HPT/24523
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 MUSSELBURGH PRIVATE NURSERY, STONEYBANK (26 August)

NHS Lothian Health Protection Team has been working with East Lothian Environmental Health Department, the Care Inspectorate and Public Health Scotland to investigate 5 nurseries with vomiting and diarrhoea in Haddington and Musselburgh, including 3 with E. coli O157.

As a precaution, the Health Protection Team has excluded staff and children at Musselburgh Private Nursery Stoneybank and are requesting that **all children and staff** submit **two separate stool** samples, at least 24 hours apart for the clearance process.

This is regardless of whether they have been tested already in the past week.

We do not know yet whether there is E. coli O157 at the nursery, but there are clear links with a neighbouring nursery with confirmed cases.

Meantime, as a precaution, the Health Protection Team has asked that the nursery closes 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.

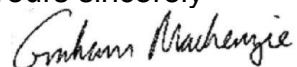
I would like to stress the importance of notifying the Health Protection Team of any currently symptomatic cases of diarrhoea or vomiting in children you see over the next few days, especially those who attend Musselburgh Private Nursery or the wider East Lothian area. If you do review patients, and they provide you with a stool sample, please could you highlight link with the nursery on the sample request details, writing HPT24523 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

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Graham Mackenzie'.

Dr Graham Mackenzie, Consultant in Public Health Medicine