

To Head Teachers

Date 16 August 2022  
Our Ref HPT/CE/fs

Enquiries to Health Protection Team  
Direct Line 0300 790 6264  
Email [health.protection@nhslothian.scot.nhs.uk](mailto:health.protection@nhslothian.scot.nhs.uk)

Dear Head Teacher

**Re: E.coli Outbreak and primary one Public Health exclusions.**

NHS Lothian Health Protection team has been investigating an outbreak of E.coli linked to the Church Street Pear tree Nursery in Haddington. As part of our investigations we are testing all the children and staff who attend and work at the nursery. This includes children who have left the nursery to move onto primary school this coming term. We are also testing siblings of nursery pupils if they have had symptoms or are contacts of positive cases.

As a result of the extensive testing, we have identified a number of positive cases of E.coli infection in children and some of their contacts. Children who have tested positive are excluded from attending nursery under the Public Health (Scotland) Act. If the child or their sibling is a pupil due to start Primary 1 in August, they have been excluded from school. Their family has been informed of this decision.

When this situation arises, the school will receive a letter from the Health Protection Team, alerting them that the child is excluded. The child should not be allowed into the school building. The Health Protection team will lift the Public Health exclusion as soon as the child is shown to be free from infection. Health protection nurses will call the school and let the Head Teacher know as well as sending a letter confirming that the Public Health exclusion has been lifted.

Hard copies of exclusion letters will be sent to all of the school involved, but to avoid any delay given the large numbers involved, a list of pupils who are excluded from the setting will also be emailed over to Head Teachers. We appreciate your co-operation with this.

If you have any queries please don't hesitate to contact us either by telephone 0300 790 6264 or e-mail [Health.protection@nhslothian.scot.nhs.uk](mailto:Health.protection@nhslothian.scot.nhs.uk)

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