

Confidential
GPs

Date 11 August 2022
Our Ref
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, CHURCH STREET, HADDINGTON

Following our letter of 3 August 2022, the NHS Lothian Health Protection team continues to manage a large E. coli O157 outbreak at Pear Tree Nursery, Haddington. This update relates to the process of sharing results with families and staff – see **underlined section**.

All children and staff at Pear Tree Nursery and parents working in specific risk groups have been formally excluded from attending nursery, and asked to avoid other activities. Children, parents, and nursery staff have been asked to submit two stool samples, separated by at least 24 hours. These samples serve two purposes - to identify further cases, and to identify when the formal exclusions can be lifted. In addition to these two samples, further samples will be required from confirmed cases. The Health Protection Team is very grateful to colleagues in GP practices who have helped with this process.

The process of sharing results and formally lifting exclusions is being conducted by the Health Protection Team. If parents or staff contact your GP practice asking for results, please can GP practice staff inform them that the Health Protection Team will be in touch with them in due course.

Please can you ask GP staff *not* to share results with parents or staff, as this risks people returning to activities prematurely and potentially spreading infection.

E. coli O157 can be a serious infection at any age, but particularly in young children. It can lead to complications including haemolytic uraemic syndrome. If parents contact your GP practice about a child with bloody diarrhoea, it is essential that they are reviewed clinically. Please can you also continue notifying the Health Protection Team of currently symptomatic cases of diarrhoea or vomiting in children over coming weeks, especially those with links to Pear Tree Nursery. Further details are in the letter of 3 August 2022.

Yours faithfully,

Dr Graham Mackenzie
Consultant in Public Health Medicine