

Nursery E coli O157 outbreaks in Haddington and Musselburgh – information for GPs (29/8/2022)

I am writing to update you about the unfolding outbreaks of D&V in Haddington and Musselburgh nurseries. An update was posted on the NHS Lothian website on 26 August: <https://news.nhslothian.scot/2022/08/26/appeal-to-families-during-e-coli-investigations/> alongside a list of Frequently Asked Questions. Five nurseries have been involved so far:

- **Pear Tree Church Street Haddington** – closed 2 August – confirmed E. coli O157 cases. Reopening 29 August.
- **Pear Tree Meadowpark Haddington** – closed 12 August – confirmed E. coli O157 cases. Awaiting clearance samples before it can reopen.
- **Pear Tree West Road Haddington** – closed 16 August – thought to be viral outbreak. Awaiting inspection Tuesday 30 August 2022 before decision can be made about reopening.
- **Musselburgh Private Nursery Bridge Street** – closed 19 August – confirmed E. coli O157 cases. Awaiting inspection, week commencing 29 August 2022.
- **Musselburgh Private Nursery Stoneybank** – closed 26 August – testing awaited. Awaiting inspection, week commencing 29 August 2022.

There are clear epidemiological links between these outbreaks. The working hypothesis is that transmission is person-to-person rather than an ongoing point source of infection. Microbiological and epidemiological studies are continuing. The Incident Management Team, including representation from NHS Lothian, East Lothian Council, Care Inspectorate, Public Health Scotland, Scotland's Rural College, and Scottish Government, is working with nurseries to investigate this situation and safely reopen the nurseries.

For four of these nurseries all children and staff have been formally excluded under the Public Health Act 2008 and asked to submit two stool samples. I have attached detailed information for the most recent nursery (Stoneybank), and listed a summary for the 5 nurseries below.

To submit these samples please request on ICE, searching for "HPT", quoting the HPT reference below.

This helps the Health Protection Team and microbiology lab to understand the context for testing, among many hundreds of tests associated with these outbreaks.

Pear Tree Church Street Haddington – HPT24278 – full clearance samples required (2 samples, at least 24 hours apart from all children and staff)

Pear Tree Meadowpark Haddington – HPT24369 – full clearance samples required (2 samples, at least 24 hours apart from all children and staff)

Pear Tree West Road Haddington – HPT24420 – sampling only of symptomatic cases

Musselburgh Private Nursery Bridge Street – HPT24393 – full clearance samples required (2 samples, at least 24 hours apart from all children and staff)

Musselburgh Private Nursery Stoneybank – HPT24523 – full clearance samples required (2 samples, at least 24 hours apart from all children and staff)

There is an NHS24 helpline in operation during working hours (0800 22 44 88). The Health Protection Team can be contacted on 0300 790 6264.

Many thanks for your ongoing assistance with this large outbreak.

Dr Graham Mackenzie, GP Monday to Wednesday and Consultant in Public Health Medicine Thursday and Friday