

Wednesday, 17 October 2012

Health Protection



E. coli O157

Introduction
Enterohemorrhagic *E. coli* (EHEC) are common, normal, harmless bacteria in the human large intestine. However, some EHEC strains produce a toxin called Verotoxin (VT) which can cause severe disease in humans. VT is the most common type, although there are other strains that cause disease but are not classified as EHEC.

The illness
EHEC O157 can cause a range of symptoms from mild diarrhoea to severe kidney failure. Symptoms usually appear 3-4 days after infection. EHEC O157 is a rare cause of disease in humans, but it is responsible for many cases of kidney failure in children and adults. It is also responsible for many cases of kidney failure in cattle and sheep. EHEC O157 is a rare cause of disease in humans, but it is responsible for many cases of kidney failure in children and adults. It is also responsible for many cases of kidney failure in cattle and sheep.

The incubation period can range from 1-14 days, and is most commonly 3-4 days. Symptoms usually appear 3-4 days after infection. EHEC O157 is a rare cause of disease in humans, but it is responsible for many cases of kidney failure in children and adults. It is also responsible for many cases of kidney failure in cattle and sheep.

The source
The main source is the gut of healthy cattle, although it may be present in sheep and other animals. It can spread to humans in a number of ways:
• Eating raw meat, especially ground meat such as in beef burgers.
• Drinking raw milk.
• Contact with infected animals, such as in farm visits, petting farms or zoos.
• Contact with infected people, such as in day centres, nurseries, schools or in the home.
• Drinking or swimming in untreated surface water.
• Contact with infected people who have recently visited a petting farm or zoo.

The organism is very rarely passed from one person to another. This is because it is usually spread, where the original source may have been, through consumption of raw meat, petting farms, day centres, schools or in the home. This can lead to outbreaks involving many more children, and it is more likely to occur through consumption of raw meat, petting farms, day centres, schools or in the home, and is particularly common in households, nurseries and school canteens.



This factsheet for health professionals contains information on *E. coli* O157, a strain of bacteria that can cause severe disease in humans.

Information on prevention is included.

Details

Format

2 page A4 factsheet

Target group

Health professionals

Downloads

Attachment

Size

[Professional EColi Factsheet 10 12 0.pdf](#) 513.96 KB

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