

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 3-5 days after infection. EHEC O157 is a rare cause of illness in humans, but it is responsible for many cases of kidney failure in children. EHEC O157 is also responsible for many cases of kidney failure in adults. EHEC O157 is a rare cause of illness in humans, but it is responsible for many cases of kidney failure in children. EHEC O157 is also responsible for many cases of kidney failure in adults.

The incubation period can range from 1-14 days, and is most commonly 3-4 days. Symptoms usually appear 3-5 days after infection. EHEC O157 is a rare cause of illness in humans, but it is responsible for many cases of kidney failure in children. EHEC O157 is also responsible for many cases of kidney failure in adults.

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, petting, or zoo visits.
• Contact with infected people, such as in farm, petting, or zoo visits.
• Drinking or swimming in untreated water (especially in rural areas).
• Contact with raw meat, especially ground meat.

The organism is very rarely passed from one person to another. This leads to 'sporadic' cases, where the infected person has been exposed to the organism in one of the ways listed above. However, there have been cases of 'outbreaks', where the organism is passed from one person to another. This can happen in a number of ways, including contact with infected people, contact with infected animals, or contact with infected food.



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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