



DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Promoting and protecting health, well-being, self-sufficiency, and safety of all in Marin County.



////// PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY ////

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Escherichia coli O157 Outbreak

SITUATION: Nine cases of presumptive *Escherichia coli* O157 have been reported to the San Francisco Department of Public Health (SFPHD) since August 20, 2013. In addition, a Sonoma resident with post-diarrheal thrombocytopenia and renal failure was admitted to Marin General Hospital on August 20 and is being evaluated for *E. coli* O157 hemolytic-uremic syndrome (HUS). During the same interval, a Santa Clara resident and two San Mateo residents were diagnosed with *E. coli* O157 infection linked to the outbreak. All of the reported cases have presented with bloody diarrhea. Health Departments in counties with cases are working with the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) to monitor the spread of disease, confirm the *E. coli* strains(s) involved, gather information from clinicians and interviews with patients, and determine whether the cases may be linked or share a common source.

(Note this is not an exercise, despite the similar outbreak exercise scenario conducted in Marin County this week.)

ACTIONS REQUESTED OF CLINICIANS

1. **Remain alert** for adult or pediatric patients who have HUS or acute onset of bloody diarrhea.
2. **Obtain stool samples for culture** from patients with bloody diarrhea and **test those specimens** for *E. coli* O157 as well as other suspect pathogens.
3. **Be aware** that antibiotics and anti motility agents may increase risk of complications of *E. coli* O157 infection.
4. **Report** cases of HUS or Shiga toxin-producing *E. coli* (STEC) including *E. coli* O157 immediately (within 1 hour) to MCPHD Communicable Disease Prevention and Control Unit (415) 473-7805 or (415) 473-4163. After 5:00 p.m., weekends, holidays, call (415) 473-9464 and request to speak with the Public Health Officer on call.
5. Clinical laboratories should **send *E. coli* O157 isolates to Napa-Solano-Yolo-Marin County Public Health Laboratory** for confirmation and further characterization. Do not send specimens directly to CDPH or CDC. For laboratory-related questions, please call the Napa-Sonoma-Yolo-Marin Laboratory at (707) 784-4410.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

SFPHD: <http://sfdph.org/cdcp>

MCPHD: [www.http://marincounty.org](http://www.marincounty.org)

CDPH: <http://www.cdph.ca.gov/HealthInfo/discond/Pages/EscherichiacoliO157117.aspx>

CDC: <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/PDF/rr/rr5812.pdf> , <http://www.cdc.gov/ecoli/index.html>

For questions please call MCPHD Communicable Disease Control Unit at (415) 473-7805 or (415) 473-4163. For laboratory questions, please call (707) 784-4410.

Health Alert: Conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention.

Health Advisory: Provides important information for specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action.

Health Update: Provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; unlikely to require immediate action.