



DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

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



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

September 24, 2013

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SITUATION: Three cases of confirmed [Escherichia coli O157](#) and one case of presumptive Escherichia coli O157 have been reported to the Marin County Communicable Disease Prevention and Control Team (CDPC) since September 22, 2013.

Three of the cases are children. Two of these children and one adult patient are currently hospitalized and are reportedly recovering. All three hospitalized cases presented with bloody diarrhea, and one has progressed to hemolytic-uremic syndrome (HUS). Marin CDPC is 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.

ACTIONS REQUESTED OF CLINICIANS

1. **Remain alert** for adult or pediatric patients who have acute onset of bloody diarrhea and consider evaluation for HUS (classically elevated creatinine, low platelets and hemolysis).
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. **Report cases** of HUS or Shiga toxin-producing E. coli (STEC) including E. coli O157 immediately (within 1 hour) to Marin CDPC (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.
4. 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 public health laboratory at (707) 784-4410.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

For clinical or general questions, please call Marin County Communicable Disease Control Team at (415) 473-7805 or (415) 473-4163. For laboratory questions, please call (707) 784-4410. Marin County Public Health Updates are posted online at www.marincountyhhs.org.