

Your child may have been exposed to:

E. coli O157:H7

Quick Help

If you think your child has E. coli O157:H7

Tell your childcare provider or call the school.

Need to stay home?

Yes, until your child has tested negative for *E. coli O157:H7*. Stools must test negative two times, with at least 24 hours between collections of the first and second stool sample.

Prevention

- Wash hands after using the toilet, changing diapers and before preparing or eating food. Your child may need assistance with washing their hands.
- Clean and disinfect any objects that come in contact with stool. This includes toilets, potty chairs, sinks, toys and diaper changing areas. Use products that kill germs.
- Farm animals (especially cattle and calves) can cause *E. coli O157:H7*. Wash your hands after touching pets and farm animals.
- Cook food thoroughly and do not drink unpasteurized milk or unpasteurized juice. Always disinfect cooking surfaces.
- Anyone with *E. coli O157:H7* should not use swimming beaches, pools, water parks, spas or hot tubs until 2 weeks after the diarrhea has stopped.

Escherichia coli O157:H7 can cause a bacterial infection of the intestines.

Symptoms

- Loose stools, which may be watery and bloody
- Abdominal pain
- May have fever

Spread

- By eating or drinking contaminated food or beverages
- By touching contaminated hands, surfaces or objects
- By handling pets and farm animals

Contagious Period

The illness can spread as long as *E. coli O157:H7* bacteria are in the stool. This could be for a few weeks or in a small number of children, this may be for 3 months.

Call your Healthcare Provider

- If anyone in your home has symptoms. There is a medical test to detect the bacteria. Diarrhea caused by *E. coli O157:H7* usually goes away after a few days without any treatment. Treatments to stop diarrhea are usually not recommended.
- Ask how to prevent dehydration. Your child may lose a lot of water due to vomiting and diarrhea.

For more information, please visit or call:
Oldham County Health Department
1786 Commerce Parkway, LaGrange KY 40031
502-222-3516 ext. 136
www.oldhamcountyhealthdepartment.org

