

HAN subject: Health Alert Network (HAN) Health Alert | E. coli O157:H7 in Lehi, UT

HAN number: 08222023

From: Utah Department of Health and Human Services

Intended audience: local public health departments; healthcare providers; ID physicians; clinical labs; emergency departments

Action steps

- **Local health departments:**
 - Please forward to hospitals, clinics, urgent care centers, emergency departments, and other clinics or associations in your jurisdiction.
 - Notify the Utah Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and your local health department of any cases of E. coli O157:H7.
- **Hospitals and clinics:**
 - Please forward to all healthcare providers who may be involved, including internists, infectious disease doctors, emergency department staff, and family medicine clinics.

Key points

Summary

Utah DHHS is issuing this Health Alert Network (HAN) Health Alert regarding E. coli O157:H7 in at least 12 patients linked to irrigation water in Lehi, UT. DHHS urges all healthcare providers to consider stool testing in symptomatic patients, especially young children, who live in and around the Lehi area or who have traveled to Lehi, and to monitor patients for signs of hemolytic uremic syndrome (HUS).

Background

- E. coli O157:H7 has recently been reported in 12 people, 11 of whom have known close ties to Lehi, UT. Sequencing performed on isolates from these patients indicate a common source of illness.
- Pressurized irrigation water in Lehi, UT has been identified as a likely source of illness.
- E. coli O157:H7 has been found in several pressurized irrigation water sources within the city.
- Symptoms of E. coli O157:H7 include diarrhea (often bloody), abdominal cramps, and vomiting.
- E. coli O157:H7 is particularly dangerous for young children because they are at higher risk of developing HUS.
- Signs of HUS include decreased urinary output, extreme fatigue, and paleness, especially in

*The information in this message is intended to spread awareness among healthcare providers and other professionals across Utah. This is not intended for mass distribution or media purposes.

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the cheeks and inside the lower eyelids.

- Antibiotics are generally not helpful for E. coli O157:H7, and may even increase the risk of HUS.

Recommendations

- Perform stool testing for patients, especially young children, who have diarrheal illness.
- Stool testing can help identify patients who are at risk of developing HUS for close monitoring, and can help guide treatment decisions.

More information

Utah Epidemiology: <https://epi.utah.gov/>

CDC: <https://www.cdc.gov/ecoli/clinicians.html>

Staying informed

CDC: Register for CDC HANs: <https://emergency.cdc.gov/han/updates.asp>

CDC: Sign up for COCA calls and emails: <https://emergency.cdc.gov/coca/calls/index.asp>

DHHS: Register for Utah HANs: <http://eepurl.com/is3iwE>

Project ECHO: sign up for Utah's Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes:
<https://physicians.utah.edu/echo>

DHHS disease reporting line: telephone (1-888-EPI-UTAH (374-8824)), email (reporting@utah.gov), or fax (801-538-9923).