



## Shiga toxin-producing *E. coli* (STEC) including *E.coli* O157:H7

### Investigation checklist for local health departments

Local health department staff should follow these steps when investigating cases of STEC in their community. For more detailed information, including disease epidemiology, reporting, case investigations, and follow-up, refer to the communicable disease chapter “Shiga toxin-producing *Escherichia Coli*” which can be accessed at: <http://www.nj.gov/health/cd/ecoli/techinfo.shtml>.

- Review laboratory analysis to confirm positive test result. If the case has not been submitted via the Communicable Disease Reporting and Surveillance System (CDRSS), enter case and lab results.
- Interview case patient (or guardian if case is a minor) using “STEC Case Report Worksheet”.
- Provide education to the case patient. FAQ’s on STEC can be accessed at <http://www.nj.gov/health/cd/ecoli/index.shtml>.
- Enter information from interview into CDRSS. Fax interview form to CDS at 609-826-5972.
- If a food establishment from another jurisdiction is identified as a possible source of exposure, notify the appropriate local health department.
- If an unpasteurized milk/dairy product is suspected as the source of infection, notify NJDOH, CDS via telephone. If a ground beef product is suspected as the source of infection, contact CDS to discuss potential testing of leftover product if available.
- If the case is a foodhandler, daycare worker or attendee or provides direct patient care, exclude from work or school in accordance with recommendations prescribed in the communicable disease chapter.
- If any additional cases are identified through interview, enter cases into CDRSS and exclude any foodhandlers, daycare workers or attendees, or cases that provide direct patient care in accordance with the recommendations prescribed in the chapter.
- If an outbreak is suspected, report it to the NJDOH, CDS via telephone.
- Upon completion of investigation, determine case status and close case in CDRSS.