

## STEC Investigation Checklist for Local Health Departments

Local health department staff should follow these steps, not necessarily always in order, when investigating reports of STEC. For more detailed information refer to the STEC Disease Chapter. STEC is a Priority Level 3 disease and critical details should be entered into the Communicable Disease Reporting and Surveillance System (CDRSS) within 5 days.

- Review laboratory details to confirm the test result. If the case has not been submitted via CDRSS, create a case.
- Follow up with the laboratory to ensure a specimen has been submitted to the state laboratory (NJ PHEL) for further testing as per the [NJ Administrative Code](#).
- Assess the case-patient for high-risk activities (e.g., daycare attendee, food handler) and exclude from school or work in accordance with [NJDOH Exclusion Criteria](#).
- Interview the case-patient (parent/guardian if case-patient is a minor) via phone using the “STEC Case Report Form (CDS-40)”. Do not fax the form to the physician or mail to the home of the case-patient for completion.
- Provide education to the case-patient; additional information can be found on the NJDOH and CDC disease pages.
- Enter critical details (demographics, signs/symptoms, clinical status, additional laboratory information, and industry/occupation) into the CDRSS case.
- Enter relevant exposures (travel, food history especially consumption of unpasteurized dairy, meats, uncooked salads, grocery stores, restaurants, contact with recreational water, pets, livestock, or animals) into the *Sources of Infection and Risk Factors* section within the CDRSS case.
- Notify the appropriate local health department and document in CDRSS if a food establishment, restaurant, etc. from another jurisdiction is identified as a possible source of exposure.
- Inform the Foodborne and Waterborne Disease Unit at [cfs.fwd.epi@doh.nj.gov](mailto:cds.fwd.epi@doh.nj.gov) if an outbreak is suspected or if an unpasteurized milk/dairy product is believed to be the source of infection.
- Enter any additional symptomatic contacts identified through the interview into the *Contact Tracing* section within CDRSS and follow case investigation as appropriate.
- Submit the completed “STEC Case Report Form (CDS-40)” via email to the Foodborne and Waterborne Disease Unit at [cfs.fwd.epi@doh.nj.gov](mailto:cfs.fwd.epi@doh.nj.gov) or fax to 609-826-5972 or 609-292-5811.
- Document dates/times of at least three attempts made to reach the case-patient into the *Sources of Infection and Risk Factors* section within CDRSS if they remain unreachable.
- Determine *Case Status* based on [NNDSS case definitions](#) and mark *Report Status* as “LHD CLOSED” in CDRSS.

**New Jersey Department of Health  
STEC SURVEILLANCE CASE REPORT  
RETURN COMPLETED FORM TO NJDOH VIA FAX 609-826-5972**

CDRSS ID#

**Section 1: INTERVIEWER & PATIENT INFORMATION:**

1. State Lab Isolate ID#: \_\_\_\_\_ 2. State of residence: \_\_\_ \_\_

3. County: \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Zip code: \_\_\_\_\_

5. Interviewer Information  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Contact Phone Number: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_  
Agency or Organization: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Interview: \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ (MM/DD/YYYY)

6. Language interview conducted in  English  Spanish  Other (Specify): \_\_\_\_\_

7. Respondent was:  Self  Parent  Spouse  Other (Specify): \_\_\_\_\_  
 Not interviewed - *If not interviewed, why not?* \_\_\_\_\_

8. Patient outcome at time of interview:  Survived  Died  Unknown  
*If died, was this infection considered an underlying, contributing, or immediate cause of death?*  Yes  No  Unknown

**Section 2: DEMOGRAPHIC DATA:**

1. Date of birth: \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ (MM/DD/YYYY) 2. Age: \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Sex:  Male  Female

4. Hispanic or Latino origin?  Yes  No  Unknown

5. How would you describe your (your child's) race?  
 White  Black / African American  American Indian / Alaska Native  Unknown  
 Asian  Native Hawaiian / Other Pacific Islander  Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_

**Section 3: CLINICAL INFORMATION:** Now I have a few questions about your (your child's) illness.

1. What date did you (your child) first feel sick? \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ MM/DD/YYYY

2. How many days in total were you (your child) sick? \_\_\_\_\_ days  Unknown  Still sick



3. Prior to onset of symptoms, did you (your child) have any long-lasting or chronic illness or condition {an illness that has lasted longer than 1 month}?  
 Yes  No  Unknown  Refused  
*if yes, please specify* \_\_\_\_\_

YES	Maybe	NO	Don't Know	Did you (your child) have any:
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	4. Diarrhea (defined as at least 3 loose stools in 24 hours)? a. What date did it start? ___/___/____ (MM/DD/YYYY) <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown b. What date did it stop? ___/___/____ (MM/DD/YYYY) <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	5. Blood in stool?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	6. Vomiting?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	7. Nausea?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	8. Abdominal cramps?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	9. Headache?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	10. Fever (or felt feverish)? 10a. Temperature _____ degrees
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	11. Other? 11 a. Specify: _____
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	12. Were you treated with antibiotics for this illness? a. Specify: _____
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	13. Were you (your child) hospitalized overnight? ( <i>must enter MM/DD/YYYY</i> ) a. Hospital Name: _____ b. Admit Date: ___/___/____ c. Discharge Date: ___/___/____
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	14. Did you (your child) receive a diagnosis of Hemolytic Uremic Syndrome (HUS) or kidney failure? <input type="checkbox"/> HUS <input type="checkbox"/> Kidney Failure

**Section 4: TRAVEL AND EVENTS:** Next I have a couple of questions about any travel you might have done, either as part of your work or for pleasure in the **7 days** before onset of illness.

YES	Maybe	NO	Don't Know	1. Did you (your child) spend all, or some, of the <b>7 days before</b> you were ill outside your home state?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	a. Reason for travel: _____
				b. List all <b>US states</b> where you might have purchased or eaten foods (Including airports, bus or train stations) <b>States, Cities:</b> _____ <b>Dates of travel:</b> _____ List hotels/resorts stayed in during travel: _____
YES	Maybe	NO	Don't Know	2. Did you (your child) spend all, or some, of the <b>7 days before</b> you were ill outside the US?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	a. Reason for travel: _____
				b. List all countries <b>outside the US</b> where you might have purchased or eaten foods <b>Countries:</b> _____ <b>Dates of travel:</b> _____ List hotels/resorts stayed in during travel: _____
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	3. In the <b>7 days</b> before illness onset, did you attend an event where food was served, such as a catered event, conference, wedding, food festival, fair, church, or community meal?
				a. Event name: _____ b. Location: _____ c. Items consumed: _____
				a. Event name: _____ b. Location: _____ c. Items consumed: _____

 **NOTE TO INTERVIEWER**

YES	Maybe	NO	Don't Know	<i>Please refer to Section 4 'TRAVEL AND EVENTS' question (2b.) above. Did the case spend the <u>entire</u> 7 days before illness onset outside the US? If the answer was:</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>NO</b> , please continue with the interview on the next page 
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>YES</b> , thank the interviewee for his/her time and end the interview 

**ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:**

**Section 5. FOOD ALLERGIES & SPECIAL DIETS:** Now I have a few questions about general food preferences, food allergies, and any special diets you (your child) may follow.

1. Do you (your child) avoid eating or never eat any of the following foods, due to restriction or preference?

Dairy products (butter, dairy milk, cheese, etc.)     Poultry (chicken, turkey, etc.)     Beef

Eggs     Pork     Seafood (fish, crab, shrimp, etc.)

Other, specify: \_\_\_\_\_

2. Do you (your child) follow any of the following special or restricted diets?

Kosher     Raw foods     Paleo (high protein, low carb)     Dairy-free     Weight loss/low fat

Halal     Low carb     Vegetarian/Vegan     Gluten-free     Other, specify \_\_\_\_\_

**Section 6: SOURCES OF FOOD AT HOME:** Now I have a few questions about where the food came from that you (your child) ate **at home** in the **7 days** before your illness began. This isn't necessarily only where you shopped during that week, but please tell me the names of each store you would have eaten food from during the 7 days before you were sick.

**1. Did you (your child) eat foods from:**

Grocery stores or supermarkets     Fish or meat specialty shops (butcher shops, etc.)

Warehouse stores (Costco, Sam's Club, etc.)     Live animal market, custom slaughter facility

Small markets/Mini markets (convenience stores, gas stations, etc.)     Health food stores or co-ops

Ethnic Specialty markets (Mexican, Asian, Indian)     Farmers' markets, roadside stands, open-air markets, directly from farm

Home delivery grocery services (CSA, grocery delivery, Amazon Fresh, Peapod, etc.)     Others?

Meal delivery services (Blue Apron, Meals on Wheels, NutriSystem, etc.)

*Please list store names, address/location, and shopper card # (if applicable) mentioned by the interview below:*

Store/Supermarket Name	Address/Location	Shopper card #

2. May we have permission to retrieve purchases based on your member card information? This will be kept confidential.     Yes  No

**Section 7: SOURCES OF FOOD OUTSIDE THE HOME:** Now I have a few questions about where the food came from that you (your child) ate **outside your home** such as restaurants or fast food chains. For each, please tell me the names of each place you would have eaten food from during the **7 days** before you were sick.

**1. Did you (your child) eat foods from:**

Fast casual (Chipotle, Panera, etc.)     All-you-can-eat buffet

Jamaican, Cuban, or Caribbean     Any take-out from a restaurant

Mexican, Salvadorian, other Hispanic/Latino-style     Salad bar at a grocery store or restaurant

Chinese, Japanese, Vietnamese, other Asian-style     Sandwich shop, deli

Middle Eastern, Greek/Mediterranean, Arabic, Lebanese, African     Breakfast, brunch, diner, or café

Healthy restaurant (vegetarian, vegan, salad-based)     School, hospital, senior center, or other institutional setting

Fast Food (McDonalds, Burger King, Wendy's, etc.)     An event where food was served (catered event, festival, church or community meal)

Ready-to-eat prepared food from grocery or deli     Any others?

Food trucks, food stalls/stands

*Please list restaurant/store names and address/location mentioned by the interviewee below:*

Restaurant Name	Address/Location	Meal Date(s)	Food Ordered/Eaten

**Section 8: FOOD HISTORY:** Now I'd like to ask you about specific food items.

**DAIRY ITEMS / JUICES**

YES	Maybe	NO	Don't Know	During the <b>7 days</b> before you (your child) got sick, did you eat the following items:
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1. Milk from a cow or other animal source? a. Type (cow, goat, etc.) _____ Brand/Location Purchased _____ b. Raw or unpasteurized? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Maybe
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	2. Cheese made from raw milk? a. Type (cow, goat, etc.) _____ Brand/Location purchased _____
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	3. Artisanal or gourmet cheese?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	4. Farmer's cheese?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	5. Queso fresco, or queso blanco?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	6. Other cheese, specify: _____
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	7. Raw or unpasteurized Juice or cider? <input type="checkbox"/> Apple <input type="checkbox"/> Orange <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ a. Brand/Location Purchased _____

**MEATS**

YES	Maybe	NO	Don't Know	During the <b>7 days</b> before you (your child) got sick, did you (your child):
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1. Handle ground beef, even if you (your child) did not eat it?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	2. Eat any ground beef, such as hamburger patties, casseroles, tacos, soups, or pasta sauces? a. If eaten <u>at home</u> , what was the: Dish (please describe): _____ Place purchased from (names, locations): _____ What % fat or lean? _____ Purchased as patties? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown b. If eaten <u>outside the home</u> , where? List name(s) & location(s): _____
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	3. Eat any steaks, roasts, or other whole cuts of beef? a. If eaten <u>at home</u> , what was the: Type, variety, brand: _____ Place purchased from (names, locations): _____ b. If eaten <u>outside the home</u> , where? List name(s) & location(s) _____
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	4. Any other beef? a. Specify: _____

5. During the **7 Days** before you (your child) got sick, did you (your child) eat any of the following items:

Bison  Elk  Venison  Boar  Other wild game, Specify: \_\_\_\_\_

Salami  Sausage  Pepperoni  Beef or other jerky  Other dried or fermented meats, Specify: \_\_\_\_\_

**FRESH / UNCOOKED SALADS**

YES	Maybe	NO	Don't Know	During the <b>7 days</b> before you (your child) got sick, did you (your child) eat the following items:
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1. Iceberg lettuce? a. Prepackaged or whole head/loose? <input type="checkbox"/> Prepackaged <input type="checkbox"/> Whole head/Loose <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown Was it: <input type="checkbox"/> Whole leaf <input type="checkbox"/> Shredded <input type="checkbox"/> Topping/garnish <input type="checkbox"/> Other, specify: _____ b. If eaten <u>at home</u> , what was the: Type, variety, brand: _____ Place purchased from (names, locations): _____ c. If eaten <u>outside the home</u> , where? List name(s) and locations(s): _____

YES	Maybe	NO	Don't Know	During the <b>7 days</b> before you (your child) got sick, did you (your child) eat the following items:
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	2. Romaine lettuce?
				a. Prepackaged or whole head/loose? <input type="checkbox"/> Prepackaged <input type="checkbox"/> Whole head/Loose <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown Was it: <input type="checkbox"/> Whole leaf <input type="checkbox"/> Shredded <input type="checkbox"/> Topping/garnish <input type="checkbox"/> Other, specify: _____
				b. If eaten <u>at home</u> , what was the: Type, variety, brand: _____ Place purchased from (names, locations): _____
				c. If eaten <u>outside the home</u> , where? List name(s) and locations(s): _____
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	3. Fresh Spinach?
				a. Prepackaged or loose/bundled? <input type="checkbox"/> Prepackaged <input type="checkbox"/> Loose/Bundled <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown
				b. If eaten <u>at home</u> , what was the: Type, variety, brand: _____ Place purchased from (names, locations): _____
				c. If eaten <u>outside the home</u> , where? List name(s) and locations(s): _____
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	4. Fresh, uncooked leafy greens in a salad, on a sandwich, or burger?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	5. Kale?
				Type, variety, brand: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	6. Cabbage?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	7. Arugula?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	8. Spring mix/mesclun mix or other lettuce blend?
				Type, variety, brand: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	9. Other leafy greens, like Swiss chard, mustard greens, dandelion, watercress?
				Type, variety, brand: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	10. Other pre-packaged leafy greens or salad kits?
				Type, variety, brand: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	11. Pre-made, single-serving salads (these are ready-to-eat, single-serve salads with toppings, meats, dressing)?
				Type, variety, brand: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	12. Alfalfa sprouts, sometimes served on sandwiches or salads?
				a. If eaten <u>at home</u> , what was the: Type, variety, brand: _____ Place purchased from (names, locations): _____
				b. If eaten <u>outside the home</u> , where? List name(s) and locations(s): _____
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	13. Bean sprouts, such as mung bean or soy bean (usually served in stir fries or Asian salads or soups)?
				a. If eaten <u>at home</u> , what was the: Type, variety, brand: _____ Place purchased from (names, locations): _____
				b. If eaten <u>outside the home</u> , where? List name(s) and locations(s): _____
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	14. Other sprouts (clover, daikon radish, microgreens, etc.)?
				a. If eaten at home, what was the: Type, variety, brand: _____ Place purchased from (names, locations): _____
				b. If eaten outside the home, where? List name(s) and locations(s): _____

**Section 9: OTHER EXPOSURES: Now I'd like to ask you about any contact with water and contact with animals.**

What is your (your child's) main source of drinking water?

- Individual well  Shared well  Public water system  Bottled water  Don't Know  Other, specify: \_\_\_\_\_

YES	Maybe	NO	Don't Know	In the <b>7 days</b> before you (your child) became sick,
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1. Did you (your child) swim or wade in any treated or untreated recreational water facilities? Name/Location: _____
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	2. Did you (your child) visit a petting zoo or have direct contact with livestock animals? a. <input type="checkbox"/> Petting zoo <input type="checkbox"/> 4H event <input type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Farm <input type="checkbox"/> Other, specify: _____ b. What type of animals? <input type="checkbox"/> Cattle <input type="checkbox"/> Sheep <input type="checkbox"/> Goats <input type="checkbox"/> Pigs <input type="checkbox"/> Other, specify: _____
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	3. Did you (your child) have direct contact with pets? Details: _____

**Section 10: HIGH RISK OCCUPATIONS OR ACTIVITIES**

YES	Maybe	NO	Don't Know	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1. Do you handle or prepare food as part of your duties at work or as a volunteer? Name/Location: _____
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	2. Do you provide health care? Name/Location: _____
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	3. Do you attend or work in a daycare setting? Name/Location: _____
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	4. Do you live in, work at, visit or volunteer in any long-term care/residential facilities? Name/Location: _____
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	5. Did you (your child) have close contact with anyone with diarrhea or vomiting in the <b>7 days prior</b> to illness onset? a. When did this person first become ill? <input type="checkbox"/> <24 hrs. before you <input type="checkbox"/> ≥ 24 hrs. before you <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown

This is the end of the questionnaire.

Thank you very much for your time. These interviews are extremely valuable in helping us understand how and why people are getting sick. Depending on what we find out when we put these interviews together, we may need to talk to you again about a few details.

Would you like to provide any additional thoughts or perspective about anything we've discussed or about this outbreak investigation?

**FOR NJDOH USE ONLY**

STEC TYPE:  0157:H7  NON 0157: type \_\_\_\_\_  Sent to CDC for typing  PCR ONLY

Associated with a PulseNet cluster?  YES  NO If yes, the cluster code is \_\_\_\_\_ PFGE DATE: \_\_\_\_\_