



Columbus Public Health & Franklin County Public Health

June 3, 2011

ATTN: Franklin County Emergency Department Providers

In light of the recent CDC Health Advisory regarding the current outbreak of Shiga toxin-producing *E. coli* (STEC) O104:H4 infections in Germany, Columbus Public Health and Franklin County Public Health want to forward this information to our local healthcare partners.

As of June 3, 2011, no cases of *E. coli* O104:H4 have been reported in Columbus or Franklin County. We are not aware of any cases reported among Ohio residents.

CPH and FCPH continue active surveillance of all STEC.

Please see attached document for complete CDC Health Advisory.

Below is some additional information that might be helpful to you.

- All STEC infections are reportable to the local health jurisdictions where the patient resides.
- Questions concerning epidemiology and reporting can be made to either Columbus Public Health or Franklin County Public Health
- Please forward this communication to the clinical microbiology laboratories in your facility
- All stools submitted for testing from patients with acute community-acquired diarrhea should be cultured for STEC O157:H7. These stools should be simultaneously assayed for non-O157 STEC with a test that detects the Shiga toxins or the genes encoding these toxins.
- Clinical laboratories should report and send *E. coli* O157:H7 isolates and Shiga toxin-positive samples to state or local public health laboratories as soon as possible for additional characterization.
- Specimens or enrichment broths in which Shiga toxin or STEC are detected, but from which O157:H7 STEC isolates are not recovered, should be forwarded as soon as possible to Ohio Department of Health Laboratory so that non-O157:H7 STEC can be isolated.
- Questions concerning sample collection and submission can be extended to the Ohio Department of Health Laboratory at 614-728-0544

We welcome any additional questions or concerns that you might have. Please call (614) 525-8888.