

Do you require further information?

For further information contact:

- Your local doctor or practice nurse
- Your local Public Health Nurse
- Communicable Diseases at
Community and Public Health

Other information available from the following websites:

Centres for Disease Control and Prevention
(Atlanta, USA)

<http://cdc.gov/ncidod>

Centre for Food Safety and Applied
Nutrition (US Food & Drug Administration)

<http://vm.cfan.fda.gov>

Other resources available on gastrointestinal illnesses:

- E. coli O157
- Campylobacter
- Salmonella
- Giardia
- Cryptosporidium
- Yersinia
- Home Treatment of Raw Milk

COMMUNITY AND PUBLIC HEALTH

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**Communicable Diseases
Community and Public Health**
(a division of the Canterbury District Health Board)
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E. coli O157 Risks on Farms

Escherichia coli O157:H7
or
Verotoxin producing *Escherichia coli*
(VTEC)
or
Shigatoxin-producing *Escherichia coli*
(STEC)



Canterbury

District Health Board

Te Poari Hauora ō Waitaha

E. coli O157 on Farms



This resource details the risks of becoming infected with *E. coli* O157 on a farm.

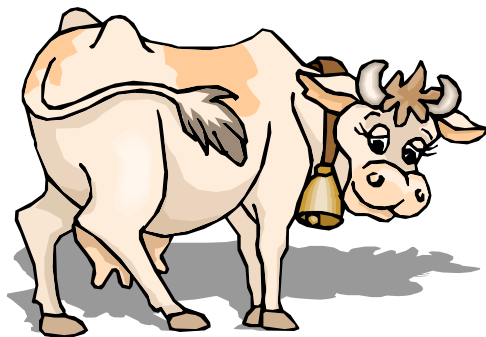
Please refer to the separate *E. coli* O157 resource for more information on the bacteria and the illness it causes.

E. coli O157 is a bacteria that can cause a serious (occasionally fatal) illness.

Main routes of transmission

On farms these include:

- Food borne infections (often associated with consumption of undercooked minced beef and unpasteurised milk)
- Contact with animal faeces.
- Person to person spread i.e. faecal/oral route



Precautions to prevent infection on the farm

The most important safety precautions to prevent infection with *E. coli* O157 include:

Thorough hand washing:

- Before eating, preparing food or smoking (although smoking is to be discouraged)
- After contact with animals and animal faeces
- After removal of footwear used around the farm
- After toileting (to prevent person to person spread)

No raw milk should be sold, supplied or consumed.

Ensure water supplies on the farm are protected from contamination.

Ensure any meat product from farm stock is thoroughly cooked, including that used for dog food.

Household precautions

In households it is important that the following precautions also be taken:

- Remove footwear soiled with faecal matter before entering the house
- Ensure work clothing, and other clothing soiled with animal faecal matter is washed separately from other clothing.
- Avoid bathing children together or sharing bath water when anyone in the house has diarrhoea.

