

Date:

Subject: Notice about E.Coli 0157:H7 Infection

Dear Parent of Guardian:

Someone in our child care has the infection **E. Coli 0157:H7**. This is an illness caused by a bacteria. The symptoms are stomach cramps, diarrhea, which sometimes contains blood, fever, and vomiting. The diarrhea usually lasts a few days to two weeks. It begins 2 to 8 days after contact with the bacteria.

A small number of sick children develop hemolytic uremic syndrome (HUS). This is a disease that affects the kidneys and blood clotting system. It can be lifethreatening.

Ground meat tainted with the droppings from animals with the bacteria is the most common source of illness. Illness may occur if a small amount of this bacteria gets on hands, objects, or into food and then finds its way into someone's mouth. You cannot see the bacteria.

Wash hands, utensils and kitchen surfaces after handling raw meat. Cook all meat until juices run clear.

The most important way to prevent E.Coli from spreading is through careful hand washing by everyone. Hands must be washed after using the restroom or changing diapers. Hands must also be washed before preparing food and before eating.

If your child gets sick with fever and diarrhea, keep him or her home. Notify your health care provider. Tell your health care provider about this letter.

Please let us know if your child gets sick with any of the symptoms.

If your child has this illness, a health care provider must approve your child's return to the child care center.

Sincerely,



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