

Guidelines for Day Care Center Personnel:

Control Measures for E. coli Outbreak

1. Do not admit any new child brought in because of exclusion from another day care due to illness.
2. Childcare staff are required to report confirmed and **suspected** cases of communicable disease in attendees or staff. Therefore:

The Local Health Department should be informed of any child or adult (teacher or foodhandler) with frequent loose, watery or bloody stools. The childcare staff should also inform the parents of well children in the childcare center of their possible exposure to a child with diarrhea.

3. Strict hand washing practices should be enforced.

Children and staff should wash their hands:

1. **Upon arrival to the day care center;**
2. **After using the bathroom or changing diapers;**
3. **Before eating or preparing food.**
4. **When returning from outdoors.**
5. **After handling animals, particularly farm animals.**

4. Children should be observed and assisted when they wash their hands.
5. Where possible, following these rules can prevent accidental spread of the bacteria:
Staff who prepare or serve food should not change diapers;
Staff who change diapers should not prepare or serve food.
6. Children and staff with diarrhea should be excluded from the day care center. If a child develops diarrhea while at the childcare center, separate him/her from the other children until he/she can be picked up by a parent or other caregiver.
7. Children with diarrhea should have a stool sample collected for culture.
8. Readmission to daycare is under supervision of the local health department staff and requires two negative cultures on specimen collected at least 24 hours apart, and at least 48 hours off treatment if antibiotics were used.