E coli 0157 South West Cluster

Dear colleagues,

I am writing to inform you that we have had nine presumptive E coli 0157 cases across the Avon Gloucestershire and Wiltshire area notified to Public Health England week commencing 20th June 2016. This is unusually high and PHE are working with Local Authority colleagues to identify a common exposure. Symptom onset dates for the cases reported to date are 11th June to 17th June 2016.

Please can I ask that for any cases presenting with diarrhoeal illness (often accompanied by abdominal cramps, bloody diarrhoea, severe abdominal pain often without fever), you organise the collection of a faecal sample and forward to your local laboratory as soon as possible. Please also notify PHE Health Protection Team at the earliest opportunity on 0300 303 8162 option 1 followed by option 2.

Thank you for your support in advance.

Mike Wade

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