

St. Christopher Primary School

Headteacher:

Mrs Clair Robinson



Allesley Old Road
Allesley

Coventry CV5 9JG

Telephone/Fax:: (024) 7667 5017

www.st-christopher.coventry.sch.uk

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Dear Parents/Carers,

We have been informed by Public Health England (PHE) that a member of the school community has been diagnosed with suspected *E. coli* O157 (also known non- VTEC). The individual is recovering from the illness. Although the risk to the children is small, PHE will like to provide the following advice as a precaution.

Public Health has no concerns about St. Christopher Primary School.

E. coli O157 is a type of bacteria that can cause a range of symptoms, from mild diarrhoea to severe abdominal pain and bloody diarrhoea. In a small proportion of patients it can cause more serious illness including kidney failure; small children are more vulnerable to complications from *E. coli* O157 infection. It usually takes three to four days before symptoms develop, which can last between one and 14 days. Most people recover after about a week without treatment.

Please inform the School if your child develops or becomes unwell with diarrhoea – you should keep them away from school and seek medical advice from your GP. Please take a copy of this letter with you when you consult the GP. *E. coli* O157 can be diagnosed from stool samples.

We would advise good hand hygiene for all children which includes washing their hands with soap and water after using the toilet, and before eating and drinking. The attached leaflet contains further information about *E. coli* O157 and how to prevent the infection. The link below also has further information on *E. coli*:

<http://www.hpa.org.uk/Topics/InfectiousDiseases/InfectionsAZ/EscherichiaColi/GeneralInformation/>

If you have any queries, please ring the West Midlands East Team on 03442253560 (Option 2, 1) for further advice.

Clair Robinson

Headteacher

