

Bovine E. Coli O157:H7

JUNE 2010

E. COLI

Cause	<i>Escherichia coli</i> O157:H7 bacteria
Risk of Exposure in Illinois	Moderate
Risk of Transmission to exposed people	Variable
Mode of Transmission	Ingestion (undercooked meat, contaminated water, raw milk); direct contact less often
Incubation Period	Humans: 2-9 days (3-4 days most common) Animals: Uncertain; fecal shedding weeks to months
Clinical Signs-Humans	Acute bloody diarrhea; cramps with little or no fever; vomiting. (Commonly lasts about one week.) Occasionally hemolytic uremic syndrome (HUS) which is a combination of symptoms that includes kidney failure, anemia, and blood clotting problems. Children <5 yrs of age, elderly and immunosuppressed individuals are at serious risk.
Clinical Signs-Animals	This organism (O157:H7) generally does not cause disease in cattle; <i>E. coli</i> can cause diarrhea in calves and mastitis in cows.
Control and Prevention	Good personal hygiene; thoroughly cook meat
Comments	Person to person transmission has been observed.
Additional Information	http://www.cfsph.iastate.edu/FastFacts/pdfs/ecoli_F.pdf http://www.cdc.gov/nczved/divisions/dfbmd/diseases/ecoli_o157h7/index.html