Shiga toxin-producing Escherichia coli (STEC) infection guideline

Flowchart 2 for risk assessment and management of contacts

Is contact symptomatic?

- No
  - Exclude household contacts until 2 successive negative faecal samples are obtained at least 24 hours apart. If the case has prolonged carriage, decisions on longer-term exclusion of household contacts, following their initial clearance, should be made on a case by case basis, on the advice of an expert panel.

- Yes
  - Exclude while symptomatic and screen for infection. Those in an HRG remain excluded until 2 successive negative faecal samples are obtained at least 24 hours apart. If identified as a case, refer to case algorithm. If negative on testing (and once symptoms have resolved) refer to this flowchart for asymptomatic contacts.

Is contact in an HRG?

- Yes
  - In a household with a case who is U5 or person unable to maintain good hygiene?
    - Yes
      - Screen
    - No
      - No need for screening

- No
  - Is contact symptomatic?
    - Yes
      - Exclude while symptomatic and screen for infection. Those in an HRG remain excluded until 2 successive negative faecal samples are obtained at least 24 hours apart. If identified as a case, refer to case algorithm. If negative on testing (and once symptoms have resolved) refer to this flowchart for asymptomatic contacts.
    - No
      - Exclude household contacts until 2 successive negative faecal samples are obtained. If the case has prolonged carriage, decisions on longer-term exclusion of household contacts, following their initial clearance, should be made on a case by case basis, on the advice of an expert panel.

Carer/health care worker/food handler

In the same household as case?

- Yes
  - In a household with a case who is U5 or person unable to maintain good hygiene?
    - Yes
      - Screen
    - No
      - No need for screening

- No
  - Exclude household contacts until 2 successive negative faecal samples are obtained. If the case has prolonged carriage, decisions on longer-term exclusion of household contacts, following their initial clearance, should be made on a case by case basis, on the advice of an expert panel.

Screen with 2 specimens obtained at least 24 hours apart. If positive, exclude from work, identify as case and refer to flowchart 1. If ongoing contact with a prolonged carrier, continue to work while asymptomatic with regular screening until case clears infection.

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