



EXERCISE BLUE TRIANGLE



EXERCISE - EXERCISE - EXERCISE

Actual Date **25 November 2008**
Exercise Date: **25 November 2008**
Insert Time: **09:00**
Exercise Note: **Informal contact with FWD at ECDC**

Inject 1

E. Mail

From: Centre for Infections, HPA,UK

To: fwd@ecdc

Subject: Shiga-toxin producing *E. coli*

This is the UK gatekeeper of the FWD network.

This is to give you an early alert that six cases of non-O157 Shiga-toxin producing *E. coli* have been identified in the UK from a coach party of over 65's recently returned from a two week tour of central Europe. The cases presented on 23 November.

Preliminary analysis in the UK suggests that the cause of the outbreak is not *E.coli* O157 (bacteriology suggests the *E.coli* isolated from 5 of 6 patients ferment sorbitol on MacConkey agar, the sixth was culture negative). However samples received at Centre for Infections, HPA have been shown to contain both the *vir* and *eae* genes by PCR in samples of all 6. This suggests a non-O157 Shiga-toxin producing *E. coli*. Further tests are underway to confirm the serotype and PFGE is being carried out (according to CDC's pulsenet protocol) to obtain a pattern to enable strain comparison. Further details will be shared as they become available.

Has anybody else within the network reported any similar cases of non-O157 Shiga-toxin producing *E. coli*?



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Actual Date **25 November 2008**
Exercise Date: **25 November 2008**
Insert Time: **9:05**
Exercise Note: **EWRS message**

Inject 2

EWRS Message from the UK, dated 25 November 2008

EWRS Message (2)

Message Content: Early Warning – Level1

Syndrome/Disease: Diarrhea

Additional specification:

Pathogen: E. coli shiga-like toxin producer (VTEC)

Reporting reason: A1

Country of occurrence: UK

Date of Onset/detection: 23 November 2008

Message: This is to advise that six cases of non-O157 Shiga-toxin producing *E. coli* have been identified from a coach party of over 65's recently returned from a two week tour of central Europe.

Six of the group of 40 have been hospitalised since their return to Bournemouth, UK on November 23. Following extensive investigation by the local health protection unit, HPA in Dorset, UK, the tour has been identified as the common link but as yet there is no information on where the coach party would have picked up the infection. Ten day food histories have been taken and samples are being collected for further analysis.

The strong likelihood is that the cases have been infected during their two week holiday



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in Europe. However due to the 2-10 day window between infection and disease presentation, it is possible that the infection was picked at any point between 12 and 22 November. Contact tracing and interviews of other members of the tour party is ongoing but indications so far is that no other people are affected.

The itinerary was as follows:-

- 9-16 November on the Slovenian coast in Piran,
- flew to Budapest, Hungary from Ljubljana
- 5 day cruise on the Danube. Joined the cruise in Budapest on 16 November and departed in Regensburg, Germany on 21 November. Passed through Bratislava and Vienna but during the cruise took all meals on the boat.
- Coach returning directly to the UK from Regensburg on 22 November.
- Arrived back in UK early hours 23 November



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Actual Date **25 November 2008**
Exercise Date: **25 November 2008**
Insert Time: **9:10**
Exercise Note: **UK (Excon) advise WHO under IHR**

Injct 3

Under IHR regulations 2005 we wish to inform you that the UK has identified an outbreak of six cases of non-O157 Shiga-toxin producing *E. coli*. It is our belief, based on the evidence to date, that this infection has been acquired ex UK. We are liaising with the competent authorities in the relevant countries and with ECDC to determine the cause.



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Actual Date **25 November 2008**
Exercise Date: **26 November 2008**
Insert Time: **10:00**
Exercise Note: **Details of case in Lithuania**

Inject 4a

Following a request from the Lithuanian Health Ministry to the health authorities in your country, the following case of a potential non-O157 *E. coli* infection has been identified based on clinical symptoms only as the microbiology confirms that *E.coli* O157 was not detected.

A young girl aged 5 was brought into the emergency room on 23 November with nausea, vomiting, severe abdominal cramps and some bloody diarrhoea. The following day the girl was diagnosed with HUS. This was not reported initially to the national authorities because there was no *E. coli* O157 isolated from the samples taken and additional tests were being undertaken to determine the cause before reporting.

The case has no recent travel history outside of Germany.

Please use this information to inform other players in the most appropriate way using the templates provided if applicable. Do NOT copy this information word for word but select the useful points which you are happy to share.



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Actual Date **25 November 2008**
Exercise Date: **26 November 2008**
Insert Time: **10:00**
Exercise Note: **Details of case in Germany**

Inject 4b

On 24 November a child, 4 years old, was rushed into Schwabing hospital, München with suspected appendicitis. An emergency appendectomy was carried out but the surgeon reported no sign of an inflamed appendix. Early this morning, 26 November, the child developed bloody diarrhoea. O157 is suspected and this has now been reported through normal surveillance channels, but has not yet been confirmed. Initial Samples have been sent to the reference laboratory for further analysis. The case has no travel history within the last month outside of the country. Other family members (older brother and parents) report no symptoms.

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Actual Date **25 November 2008**
Exercise Date: **26 November 2008**
Insert Time: **10:00**
Exercise Note: **Details of case in Hungary**

Inject 4c

Vilmos Boldar, a 69 year old widower living in Budapest, Hungary was taken into the MÁV hospital emergency department with severe abdominal cramps and vomiting on 24 November. Samples were taken and microbiology is awaited but the indications, based on symptoms, are potential O157 infection. A 10 day food history is being compiled and surveillance for other cases has been increased. The case has no recent travel history outside of Hungary.

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Actual Date **25 November 2008**
Exercise Date: **26 November 2008**
Insert Time: **10:00**
Exercise Note: **Details of case in Portugal**

Injct 4d

On 23 November, Manuel Da Costa, 76 years old, was hospitalised at the Hospitais da Universidade de Coimbra in Coimbra with serious stomach cramps, nausea and vomiting. He has no fever. Laboratory tests have today, 26 November, confirmed the absence of *E.coli* O157 and tests are continuing to determine if a non-O157 Shiga-toxin producing *E. coli* is responsible.

Surveillance in the country has been increased.

A 7 day food history is being compiled for the case. Other members of the family (wife, 72 and son, 48) report no symptoms.

The case has not travelled outside the country for the past 6 months, but his son has recently returned from working in Germany.

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Actual Date **25 November 2008**
Exercise Date: **26 November 2008**
Insert Time: **10:00**
Exercise Note: **Details of case in Slovenia**

Injct 4e

A German guitar player from Oldenburg in Northern Germany, Michael Volz, has been taken ill in Ljubljana. On 24 November the guitarist was taken to the University medical centre (UKC) with severe stomach cramps and bloody diarrhoea. He has been hospitalised whilst further investigation is carried out. His two friends, both German nationals, who he has been playing with at a concert in the city, are also ill, but have much milder symptoms, with only moderate diarrhoea. They provided samples to the hospital for analysis. On 25 November it was confirmed that the infection was not O157, but based on symptoms, another unusual strain of *E.coli* has not been ruled out as the causative agent.

They had arrived from Germany on 22 November and were in the middle of a small European tour. They are staying with friends in a small flat in the Rozna Dolina quarter of the city at Cesta na Brdo 25. None of the people living in the flat are exhibiting any symptoms of the infection.

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Actual Date **25 November 2008**
Exercise Date: **26 November 2008**
Insert Time: **10:00**
Exercise Note: **Details of case in Greece**

Inject 4f

On 25 November, Cristina Basinas, 72 years old, is rushed into hospital in Athens. She has bloody severe stomach cramps, diarrhoea and vomiting. O157 is suspected as the causative agent. Results from the microbiology are awaited.

The case has no recent travel history outside of Greece but her son is an air steward for Aegean Airways. Surveillance for other cases of O157 in the Athens area have been increased.

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Actual Date 25 November 2008
Exercise Date: 26 November 2008
Insert Time: 10:15
Exercise Note: Media report to PRU

Inject 5

Extract from the Bournemouth Daily News Late edition 25 November 2008

DAILY NEWS

HOLIDAY OF A LIFETIME BECAME 'HELL'

It was supposed to be the holiday of a lifetime. But for the 40 pensioners from the Bournemouth area, the dream holiday has turned into a nightmare. Six of the party are now suffering with severe stomach cramps, vomiting and diarrhoea and are now in the Royal Bournemouth Hospital. Pensioners from the Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole area spoke today of their sorrow that their fortnight package trip, which many had saved for some time to afford, has ended with a miserable homecoming.

The package holidaymakers left from Bournemouth for a two-week holiday of a lifetime, travelling to the Slovenian coast before the party moved to Budapest for their chartered cruise on the River Danube.

80 year old pensioner Jim Gray from Lymington told me: 'It was supposed to be a really special holiday for us both. My wife and I just celebrated our Golden Wedding and this trip was a present from our two sons – a complete surprise. That surprise has turned sour now as my wife lies in the Royal Bournemouth with terrible stomach pains, sickness and diarrhoea.' Jim is currently spending most of his days at his wife's bedside as she is still very poorly.

Further tests are underway to establish the cause of the illness and until then hospital officials are treating the illness the best they can. 'It shows all the signs of food poisoning and we believe it must be something they have eaten whilst abroad', said Dr Peters, a geriatrics consultant at the hospital, earlier today.



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Actual Date **25 November 2008**
Exercise Date: **26 November 2008**
Insert Time: **10:45**
Exercise Note: **Notification of teleconference**

Inject 6

A teleconference will be held between all member states, ECDC, WHO and the Commission (DG-SANCO) at 11:00 CET to discuss the outbreak of *E. coli* which first came to light in the UK yesterday (25/11).



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Actual Date **25 November 2008**
Exercise Date: **26 November 2008**
Insert Time: **11:45**
Exercise Note: **Confirmation of source of outbreak**

Inject 7

E.mail

To: the German Health Representatives, RKI

From: Centre for infections, HPA

Urgent

You may be aware of an outbreak of disease in the UK associated with a non-O157 Shiga-toxin producing *E. coli* which we now believe to be *E. coli* O111. Following extensive analysis of food brought back into the UK by those infected with O111, we can confirm that shiga-toxin producing *E. coli* has been detected in high numbers in samples of a "special edition" mettwurst (1kg pack) purchased in Regensburg on 21 November 2008. The label suggests the manufacturer is "Ada's Landmetzgerei, Unterlettenweg 17, Unserherrn, Ingolstadt, Bavaria, Deutschland". The mettwurst was purchased along with another which was consumed on the day of purchase, from a delicatessen stall at the Christmas market in the courtyard of the Thurn & Taxis Palace in Regensburg.

We wish to give you advance notice of this before we disseminate further and would welcome the opportunity to discuss this with you at your convenience to determine an appropriate and agreed way forward. We are in contact with the infectious diseases unit at the UK Department of Health and they are happy for the HPA to represent them in this matter.



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Actual Date **25 November 2008**
Exercise Date: **26 November 2008**
Insert Time: **12:10**
Exercise Note: **EWRS Confirmation of source of outbreak**

Inject 8

EWRS Message from the UK, dated 26 November 2008

EWRS Message (2)

Message Content: Early Warning - Level2

Syndrome/Disease: Diarrhea

Additional specification:

Pathogen: *E. coli* shiga-like toxin producer (VTEC)

Reporting reason: A2

Country of occurrence: UK

Date of Onset/detection: 23 November 2008

Message:

Cases of non-O157 Shiga-toxin producing *E. coli*

As you are aware, there has been outbreak of disease in the UK associated with a non-O157 Shiga-toxin producing *E. coli* which we now believe to be *E. coli* O111. Following extensive analysis of food brought back into the UK by those infected with O111, we can confirm that shiga-toxin producing *E. coli* has been detected in high numbers in samples of a mettwurst purchased in Regensburg, Germany on 21 November 2008. We therefore believe this to be one potential source of contamination. We have informed the German authorities who are now carrying out their own investigations.



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Actual Date **25 November 2008**
Exercise Date: **27 November 2008**
Insert Time: **13:00**
Exercise Note: **EWRS Update from Germany**

Inject 9

EWRS Message from Germany, dated 27 November 2008

EWRS Message (3)

Message Content: Early Warning – Level 3

Syndrome/Disease: Diarrhea

Additional specification: HUS

Pathogen: *E. coli* shiga-like toxin producer (VTEC)

Reporting reason: A2

Country of occurrence: Germany

Date of Onset/detection: 23/11/2008

Message:

Detection of non-O157 Shiga-toxin producing *E. coli* in a food product

Following extensive analysis of food brought back into the UK by cases infected with *E. coli* O111, yesterday the UK confirmed the presence of shiga-toxin producing *E. coli* in samples of a mettwurst purchased in Regensburg on 21 November 2008. We have located the manufacturer (Ada's Landmetzgerei, Unterlettenweg 17, Unserherrn, Ingolstadt, Bavaria, Deutschland) and conducted additional test on stocks of "special edition" 1 kg mettwurst found in their shop and factory. We can confirm that this mettwurst has been found to contain a toxin producing *E. coli* and must therefore assume this could be the potential source of the outbreak.



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This shop has sold, approximately 114 of these 1 kg mettwurst between 14 and 26 November, principally to tourists through a Christmas market stall in Regensburg.

This manufacturer also has an internet shop, Ada's Landmetzgerei, on eBay from which they are able to sell their products all over the world. The site has been closed from today. However, to 26 November, 12 further mettwurst have been sold to customers believed to be in Australia, Canada, the US and South Africa as well as other countries across Europe using this internet site. We are in the process of obtaining names and addresses of these customers.

We have informed our national food standards agency and a RASFF message will be issued in due course. Members of the Food and waterborne disease network will also be informed. The local food standards organisation in the region has asked the manufacturer to withdraw all products from sale and the factory closed temporarily until a more extensive survey of the premises and the other products can be carried out.



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Actual Date **25 November 2008**
Exercise Date: **27 November 2008**
Insert Time: **13:00**
Exercise Note: **Informal contact with FWD at ECDC**

Inject 10

E. Mail

From: RKI, Germany
To: fwd@ecdc
Subject: Shiga-toxin producing *E. coli*

This is to give you an update on our investigations following the identification of cases of non-O157 Shiga-toxin producing *E. coli* in the UK and other potential cases across Europe reported yesterday on EWRS.

Following extensive analysis of food brought back into the UK by cases infected with *E. coli* O111, yesterday the UK confirmed the presence of shiga-toxin producing *E. coli* in samples of a mettwurst purchased in Regensburg on 21 November 2008. We have located the manufacturer and conducted additional test on stocks of mettwurst found in their shop and factory.

We can confirm that using an ELISA test, this mettwurst has been found to contain a toxin associated with *E. coli* O157. Samples are currently being cultured before the tests are repeated and a further ELISA carried out. Only when the culture is positively identified and PFGE patterns compared will we officially confirm the presence of the same strain of *E. coli* O111 as in the UK, but this is currently our working assumption.

We have informed our national food standards agency and the commission (DG-SANCO E2).



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Actual Date **25 November 2008**
Exercise Date: **26 November 2008**
Insert Time: **13:30**
Exercise Note: **Notification of teleconference**

Inject 11

A teleconference will be held between all member states, ECDC, WHO and the Commission (DG-SANCO) at 13:45 CET to discuss the outbreak of *E. coli* which first came to light in the UK on 25/11.



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Actual Date **25 November 2008**
Exercise Date: **27 November 2008**
Insert Time: **15:00**
Exercise Note: **Confirmation of link in Lithuania**

Inject 12a

Background to the case of stec in your country:

Following an interview with the index cases mother you become aware of the following information:

An au pair from Lithuania, Piret Peerna, working in Southern Germany, gets a lift back with a friend to Vilnius. They go via Regensburg to pick up two other friends and she buys some sausage among other products for her sister and family from the Christmas market. The youngest daughter, Ana Kleiza, gets HUS 5 days after eating the sausage (22 November) at a family party to celebrate the return of the au pair. This was not reported to the national authorities because there was no *E. coli* O157 isolated from the samples and additional tests were being undertaken to determine the cause.



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Actual Date **25 November 2008**
Exercise Date: **27 November 2008**
Insert Time: **15:00**
Exercise Note: **Confirmation of link in Germany**

Inject 12b

Background to the case of stec in your country:

Following an interview with the mother of the index case in your country you become aware of the following information:

The Schmidt family of four from München attended the Christmas market on the 14 November and bought several items from the market. The family consumed a mettwurst among other items the following Friday 21 November and the daughter Liesel was hospitalised a few days later.



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Actual Date **25 November 2008**
Exercise Date: **27 November 2008**
Insert Time: **15:00**
Exercise Note: **Confirmation of link in Hungary**

Inject 12c

Background to the case of stec in your country:

Following an interview with Vilmos Boldar, the index case in your country, you become aware of the following information:

Zoltan Boldar, 56 years old, was working at the Thurm and taxis Christmas market in Regensburg, helping out on the glühwein stall next to a delicatessen stall. He was given a mettwurst by the owners of the delicatessen stall. He knew this was his brother's particular favourite and decided he would post it back to his brother, Vilmos, in Budapest, Hungary as a special treat. The package arrived on 21 November and was consumed by the 69 year old widower that night. On 25 November Vilmos presented in the MÁV hospital with severe abdominal cramps and vomiting.



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Actual Date **25 November 2008**
Exercise Date: **27 November 2008**
Insert Time: **15:00**
Exercise Note: **Confirmation of link in Portugal**

Inject 12d

Background to the case of stec in your country:

Following an interview with the wife of Manuel da Costa, the index case in your country, you become aware of the following information:

Following the completion of the wine harvest, Ricardo Da Costa , the son of Manuel was making his way back to Northern Portugal. He passed through Regensburg (15 November) on his way to Munich Airport and picked up some local produce as gifts for friends and family including a mettwurst. They consumed it on 19 November. On 23 November, Manuel developed serious stomach cramps, nausea and vomiting and was hospitalised.



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Actual Date **25 November 2008**
Exercise Date: **27 November 2008**
Insert Time: **15:00**
Exercise Note: **Confirmation of link in Slovenia**

Inject 12e

Background to the case of stec in your country:

Following an interview with a band member of Michael Volz, the index case in your country, you become aware of the following information:

The 3 piece rock band Scharnhorst are on the third week of a small European tour which has taken in 15 venues across Germany and is now playing in selected European capitols across the Balkans and Eastern Europe. Before coming to Ljubljana they played a gig in Regensburg and visited the Thurn & Taxis Christmas market where they purchased among other things a mettwurst. This was consumed during their travel to Slovenia, in the band minibus on 20 November.



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Actual Date **25 November 2008**
Exercise Date: **27 November 2008**
Insert Time: **15:00**
Exercise Note: **Confirmation of link in Greece**

Inject 12f

Background to the case of stec in your country:

Following an interview with the son of Cristina Binasas, the index case in your country, you become aware of the following information:

An air steward, Christos Binasas, lives with his elderly parents in Athens and works for Aegean Airlines. Christos had an overnight stopover in Munich on 20 November. He visited the German market in Regensburg and purchased a number of items from a deli stall at the market including a mettwurst. On 22 November the family consumed some of the mettwurst and other products brought at the market in Germany.