

September 7, 2016

Open Letter to High School Parents, Students and Staff

The Boone County Health Department has confirmed a third E-coli diagnosis in a student attending Sturgeon Elementary school. This infection, which is easily transmitted, was identified in our community prior to this school year start and contagion most likely resulted by contact from a shared community facility. Our school district while not the origin is working closely with the BCHD in preventing spread of contamination.

In addition to the three cases affecting Sturgeon students, the Boone County Health Department has confirmed one case outside of the Sturgeon community, but within Boone county, and are investigating cases in several adjoining states.

E-Coli infection is characterized by severe abdominal cramping and bloody diarrhea. Elevated temperatures, nausea and vomiting and stomach ache are not symptoms readily associated with this infection. Diagnosis must be confirmed by laboratory testing.

Below are steps you can take to protect your family:

1. Practice meticulous personal hygiene. Wash hands often and always after using the bathroom. Wash with soap and use friction while washing.
2. Clean and disinfect your toilet and bathrooms weekly. Remove any signs of retained Bowel Movement visible in the Toilet with disinfectant. Bleach is an ideal disinfectant.
3. Avoid common use of towels in bathroom and kitchen areas.
4. Wash and sanitize all domestic and imported fruits and vegetables eaten with skin-on.
5. Assure all meats are cooked to an internal temperature of 160 degrees. (Just because meat turns brown does not assure E-coli is killed). Cattle and bovine carry E-coli, and this is usually where the infection initiates.

Any student with a history or symptom of diarrhea at school will be sent home until symptoms are cleared by the health department.

Please contact Mr. Shawn Schultz (573-687-3515) or Mary Wolf, R.N. (573-687-2091) with any questions or concerns. We thank you in advance for respecting the privacy and confidentiality of this situation and our student body.

Shawn C. Schultz Supt.
Mary D. Wolf R.N.