



MISSISSIPPI STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

**This is an official  
MS Health Alert Network (HAN) Alert**

**MESSAGE ID:** MSHAN-20210809-00527-ALT (Health Alert)  
**RECIPIENTS:** All Physicians, Hospitals, ERs, ICPs, NPs, and  
Healthcare Providers – Statewide  
Monday, August 9, 2021  
**SUBJECT:** Cluster of *E. coli* O157 Infections Associated  
with Recreational Water Exposure at a  
Swimming Pool/Splashpad in Pelahatchie,  
Mississippi

Dear Colleagues,

The Mississippi State Department of Health (MSDH) is investigating an outbreak of *E. coli* O157 cases associated with exposure to a swimming pool and/or splashpad at the Jellystone Park Camp Resort-Yogi on the Lake in Pelahatchie, Mississippi. To date, five cases among unrelated groups have been identified associated with exposure to the swimming pool/splashpad between July 30 and August 1, 2021. The investigation is ongoing to identify additional cases; exposure dates potentially extend through August 9, 2021, when the pool and splashpad were closed to guests.

Of the five confirmed cases, ages range from 2 years to 9 years. At least three cases have been hospitalized with hemolytic uremic syndrome.

This is an evolving investigation and additional cases may be identified. Mississippi physicians and providers are asked to:

1. Obtain an exposure history for individuals who present with enteric illness, especially with bloody diarrhea or HUS.
2. Collect and submit stool specimens, through your normal laboratory procedures, for the identification of *E. coli* O157 in individuals who present with enteric illness, especially with bloody diarrhea, or HUS
3. Report all cases of *E. coli* O157 or HUS, including those with an exposure history to Yogi on the Lake in Pelahatchie, MS to MSDH.
4. Antibiotics are not recommended for patients with suspected *E. coli* O157 or other Shiga-toxin-producing *E. coli* (STEC) infections until complete diagnostic testing can be performed and STEC infection is ruled out. Some studies have shown that administering antibiotics to patients with STEC infections might increase their risk of developing HUS, and a benefit of treatment has not been clearly demonstrated. See CDC Resources for providers at [Resources for Clinicians and Laboratories | E. coli | CDC](#)



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*E. coli* O157 infections and HUS are Class 1 reportable conditions requiring report to MSDH within 24 hours of first knowledge or suspicion. Please report cases by telephone to 601-576-7725 (601-576-7400 after hours, holidays and weekends).

Regards,

Paul Byers, MD  
State Epidemiologist



***Alerting Message Specification Settings***

**Originating Agency:** Mississippi State Department of Health  
**Alerting Program:** MS Health Alert Network (MS HAN)  
**Message Identifier:** MSHAN-20210809-00527-ALT  
**Program (HAN) Type:** Health Alert  
**Status (Type):** Actual ()  
**Message Type:** Alert  
**Reference:** MSHAN-00527  
**Severity:** Unknown  
**Acknowledgement:** No  
**Sensitive:** Not Sensitive  
**Message Expiration:** Undetermined  
**Urgency:** Undetermined  
**Delivery Time:** 600 minutes

**Definition of Alerting Vocabulary and Message Specification Settings**

**Originating Agency:** A unique identifier for the agency originating the alert.

**Alerting Program:** The program sending the alert or engaging in alerts and communications using PHIN Communication and Alerting (PCA) as a vehicle for their delivery.

**Message Identifier:** A unique alert identifier that is generated upon alert activation (MSHAN-yyymmdd-hhmm-TTT (**ALT=Health Alert**, **ADV=Health Advisory**, **UPD=Health Update**, **MSG/INFO=Message/Info Service**)).

**Program (HAN) Type:** Categories of Health Alert Messages.

**Health Alert:** Conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention.

**Health Advisory:** Provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action.

**Health Update:** Provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; unlikely to require immediate action.

**Health Info Service:** Provides Message / Notification of general public health information; unlikely to require immediate action.

**Status (Type):**

- Actual: Communication or alert refers to a live event
- Exercise: Designated recipients must respond to the communication or alert
- Test: Communication or alert is related to a technical, system test and should be disregarded



**Message Type:**

Alert: Indicates an original Alert  
Update: Indicates prior alert has been Updated and/or superseded  
Cancel: Indicates prior alert has been cancelled  
Error: Indicates prior alert has been retracted

**Reference:** For a communication or alert with a Message Type of “Update” or “Cancel”, this attribute contains the unique Message Identifier of the original communication or alert being updated or cancelled. “n/a” = Not Applicable.

**Severity:**

Extreme: Extraordinary threat to life or property  
Severe: Significant threat to life or property  
Moderate: Possible threat to life or property  
Minor: Minimal threat to life or property  
Unknown: Unknown threat to life or property

**Acknowledgement:** Indicates whether an acknowledgement on the part of the recipient is required to confirm that the alert was received, and the timeframe in which a response is required (Yes or No).

**Sensitive:**

Sensitive: Indicates the alert contains sensitive content  
Not Sensitive: Indicates non-sensitive content

**Message Expiration:** Undetermined.

**Urgency:** Undetermined. Responsive action should be taken immediately.

**Delivery Time:** Indicates the timeframe for delivery of the alert (15, 60, 1440, 4320 minutes (.25, 1, 24, 72 hours)).