

DHEC Update (June 12, 2015): Greenwood County STEC Investigation

The S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) has provided the following update to a STEC investigation in Greenwood County:

- At this time, DHEC has **confirmed eleven (11) cases** of Shiga toxin-producing *E. coli* (STEC) in Greenwood County. The cases involve individuals at The Learning Vine childcare facility and their family members.
- As of today, **186 test results are negative** for STEC.

The three new laboratory confirmed cases are in individuals who either previously had symptoms of diarrheal illness or were asymptomatic, but who are all now symptom-free. **There is no evidence of ongoing transmission related to this investigation, and there has been no new onset of illness in students or staff of the daycare since June 1, 2015.**

DHEC is continuing to collect and test samples for laboratory analysis. Information resulting from this investigation will be provided as it is confirmed, and in accordance with state and federal law.

As part of this ongoing investigation, DHEC today continued to:

- Collect and test samples for laboratory analysis
- Notify individuals of their test results and answer any questions of those affected
- Provide updated guidance to individuals affected by the investigation
- Operate a hotline (1-800-868-0404) to provide assistance to those affected
- Scheduled a private, one-on-one informational session for those affected
- Work with the CDC, FDA and the childcare facility to investigate the mode of transmission in an effort to stop the spread of the infection

When will the daycare be able to reopen?

The following criteria must be met prior to students and staff returning to the facility:

- All students and staff must be tested for Shiga toxin-producing *E. coli* (STEC) and have at least one negative stool sample before returning to the facility. Some individuals may be required to have two negative stool samples before returning to the facility based on their history of illness or contact with cases.
- The facility must continue to follow all recommendations issued by DHEC.
- The facility must correct any deficiencies cited in the DSS Inspection Report.

For more information about STEC and how to prevent it, visit:

<http://www.cdc.gov/ecoli/general/index.html>.