

### **DHEC Update (June 17, 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 **fourteen (14) 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. To date, eleven (11) of the samples from these confirmed cases have undergone complete strain identification and have a matching pattern.
- As of today, **262 test results are negative** for STEC. The laboratory testing performed to screen for STEC has an accuracy rate of 99.7%.

The three (3) 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 at this time, and there has been no new onset of illness in students or staff of the daycare since June 1, 2015.**

As part of this ongoing investigation, DHEC this week has:

- Continued to follow CDC recommendations and agency protocols to investigate the mode of transmission in an effort to stop the spread of the infection
- Worked with the childcare facility to ensure that all returning students and staff provide proof of at least one negative stool sample
- Provided the childcare facility with guidance regarding ongoing cleaning and hand hygiene
- Notified individuals of their test results and answered any questions of those affected
- Operated a hotline (1-800-868-0404) to provide assistance to those affected

Information resulting from this investigation will be provided as it is confirmed, and in accordance with state and federal law.

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

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