

DHEC Update (June 26, 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. Twelve (12) of the samples from these confirmed cases have undergone complete strain identification and have a matching pattern.
- As of today, **301 test results are negative** for STEC. The laboratory testing performed to screen for STEC has an accuracy rate of 99.7%.

DHEC continues to work closely with the daycare facility and community partners to pursue possible common sources of the bacteria, and promote [prevention measures](#).

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
- Worked with the childcare facility to ensure that all returning students and staff provide proof of at least one negative stool sample
- Remained in contact with Learning Vine staff to ensure that DHEC recommendations continue to be followed and to answer any questions from the owner or director at the childcare facility
- Notified individuals of their test results and answered all questions of those affected
- Operated a hotline (1-800-868-0404) to provide assistance to those affected.

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. For more information about STEC and how to prevent it, visit: <http://www.cdc.gov/ecoli/general/index.html>.