



# Health Protection Report

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## News

Last updated : 13 July 2007 Next update: 20 July 2007

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  - ▶ *Erratum: COVER* data
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### Guidance for the management of norovirus infection in cruise ships

The Health Protection Agency working together with the Maritime and Coastguard Agency and the Association of Port Health Authorities has published new guidance for the Management of norovirus infection in cruise ships. The guidance, which is aimed at health professionals, port health, and other agency staff and the crew of affected vessels, for the identification and management of norovirus outbreaks aboard cruise vessels. They also form the basis of an approach to minimise the impact of the disease being brought aboard a vessel by passengers and crew, particularly during periods of heightened activity of the virus in the UK and other countries where a significant number of passengers are due to join the vessel.

Although the guidelines are not prescriptive, it is hoped that they will lead to a more uniform approach being adopted to outbreak management. It is, however, recognised that each individual incident has to be managed according to the circumstances prevailing and the decisions of the outbreak control group will reflect such variations in circumstances.

Further information on norovirus Information on norovirus infection is available on the HPA website at <[http://www.hpa.org.uk/infections/topics\\_az/norovirus/menu.htm](http://www.hpa.org.uk/infections/topics_az/norovirus/menu.htm)>

### References

1. HPA, Coastguard Agency, Association of Port Health Authorities. *Guidance for the Management of Norovirus Infection in Cruise Ships* . London: HPA, 13 July 2007. Available at <<http://www.hpa.org.uk/publications/PublicationDisplay.asp?PublicationID=96>>
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### First overarching report on antimicrobial usage and bacterial resistance published

The Government has published new report that combines for the first time a range of information on antimicrobial resistance in bacteria in farmed animals, humans, and food. The report includes information from Defra, the Department of Health, Health Protection Agency, Food Standards Agency and other Government agencies including the Devolved Administrations. The findings of the report will be used to

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monitor trends in patterns of resistance, identify new resistant organisms, and identify the risk factors that can lead to the development of resistance.

### References

1. *Overview of antimicrobial usage and bacterial resistance in selected human and animal pathogens in the UK :2004*. London: Defra, 2007. Available at <<http://www.vmd.gov.uk/publications/antibiotic/antipubs.htm>>.

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### **Saving Lives tools revised**

The *Saving Lives* tools published in June 2005 [1] have been updated [2]. The delivery tools to reduce MRSA, *Clostridium.difficile* and other infections have been revised to include new guidance on taking blood cultures and antimicrobial prescribing. The tools also include a healthcare association infections (HCAIs) self assessment tool endorsed by the Healthcare Commission.

### References

1. *Clean, safe care – reducing MRSA and other healthcare associated infections*. [online] [accessed 12 July 2007]. London : Department of Health, 2007. Available at <<http://www.clean-safe-care.nhs.uk/public/default.aspx?load=Tools%20>>.

2. HPA. Saving Lives launch. *Commun Dis Rep CDR Wkly* [serial online] 2005 [accessed 12 July 2007]; **15** (25): news. Available at <<http://www.hpa.org.uk/cdr/archives/2005/cdr2505.pdf> >.

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### **Erratum: COVER data**

In *COVER programme: January to March 2007* published 29 June 2007, Volume 1 Number 26, incorrect data for some Scottish and Northern Irish vaccine coverage was published, and Figure 1 did not include last quarter data.

The corrected information is now available at  
<http://www.hpa.org.uk/hpr/infections/immunisation.htm>

## Enteric

Last updated: 13 July 2007 , Next update: 10 August 2007

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### Enteric Routine Data Reports

- ▶ General outbreaks of foodborne illness in humans, England and Wales: weeks 23-27/07
- ▶ Salmonella infections, (faecal specimens) England and Wales, reports to the HPA (Salmonella data set): May 2007
- ▶ Common gastrointestinal infections, England and Wales: laboratory reports: weeks 23-27/07
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- ▶ General outbreaks of infectious intestinal disease in England and Wales: 2006

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### General outbreaks of foodborne illness in humans, England and Wales: weeks 23-27/07

Health Protection Unit	Organism	Location of food prepared or served	Month of outbreak	Number ill	Cases positive	Suspect vehicle	Evidence
Kent	<i>Salmonella</i> Enteritidis PT4	Retailer	June	>1	>1	–	–
Norfolk, Suffolk, and Cambridge	Campylobacter	Retailer	March	4	4	–	–

M (microbiological): identification of an organism of the same type from cases and in the suspect vehicle, or vehicle ingredient(s), or detection of toxin in faeces or food; D (descriptive): other evidence, usually descriptive, reported by local investigators as indicating the suspect vehicle or food; S (statistical): a significant statistical association between consumption of the suspect vehicle(s) and being a case.

## Salmonella infections (faecal specimens), England and Wales, reports to the HPA salmonella data set): May 2007

Details of 753 serotypes of Salmonella infections recorded in May are given in the table below. In June 2007, 801 Salmonella infections were recorded and preliminary information was received about one outbreak (see table above).

	May 2007
S. Enteritidis (PT4)	93
S. Enteritidis (other PTs)	232
S. Typhimurium	118
S. Virchow	26
Others (typed)	284
<b>Total Salmonella (provisional data)*</b>	<b>753</b>

\*Figures quoted from the Health Protection Agency salmonella data set are for isolates confirmed and typed by Laboratory of Enteric Pathogens (LEP).

## Common gastrointestinal infections, England and Wales, laboratory reports: weeks 23-27/07

Laboratory reports	Number of reports received					Total reports 23-27/07	Cumulative total to	
	23/07	24/07	25/07	26/07	27/07		27/07	27/06
<b><i>Campylobacter</i></b>	1272	1315	1046	669	106	<b>4408</b>	<b>20,151</b>	<b>22,369</b>
<b><i>Escherichia coli</i> O157*</b>	18	17	23	22	19	<b>99</b>	<b>323</b>	<b>286</b>
<b><i>Salmonella</i>†</b>	226	208	191	131	144	<b>900</b>	<b>4459</b>	<b>3931</b>
<b><i>Shigella sonnei</i></b>	20	20	12	14	–	<b>66</b>	<b>426</b>	<b>301</b>
<b>Rotavirus</b>	139	96	41	28	5	<b>309</b>	<b>11,541</b>	<b>12,511</b>
<b>Norovirus</b>	21	11	2	2	–	<b>36</b>	<b>3158</b>	<b>3358</b>
<b><i>Cryptosporidium</i></b>	52	28	24	13	3	<b>120</b>	<b>1014</b>	<b>1135</b>
<b><i>Giardia</i></b>	50	48	35	21	9	<b>163</b>	<b>1194</b>	<b>1310</b>

\*Vero cytotoxin-producing isolates (data from Health Protection Agency's Laboratory of Enteric Pathogens (LEP).

† Data from Health Protection Agency's Laboratory of Enteric Pathogens.

**Less common gastrointestinal infections, England and Wales, laboratory reports:  
weeks  
14-26/07**

Laboratory reports	Total reports 14-26/07	Cumulative total to 26/2007	Cumulative total to 26/2006
Adenovirus*	13	26	17
Astrovirus	–	8	46
Sapovirus	–	1	4
<i>Shigella boydii</i>	46	73	67
<i>Shigella dysenteriae</i>	17	22	22
<i>Shigella flexneri</i>	65	142	199
<i>Plesiomonas</i>	12	20	19
<i>Vibrio spp.</i>	17	26	32
<i>Yersinia spp</i>	6	19	9
<i>Entamoeba histolytica</i>	12	32	51
<i>Blastocystis hominis</i>	95	253	182

\*includes Adenovirus EM faeces and Adenovirus group F

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**General Outbreaks of Infectious Intestinal Disease in England and Wales: 2006**

A provisional total of 849 general outbreaks of infectious intestinal disease in England and Wales were reported to the Health Protection Agency Environmental and Enteric Diseases Department during 2006. A minimum dataset was captured for 729 outbreaks (86%).

In total, 25,200 people were affected, 137 admitted to hospital and 41 people were reported to have died.

Norovirus was the most commonly implicated pathogen (30%; table 1) and most outbreaks occurred in residential institutions (45%), schools (25%) and hospitals (15%). Person-to-person spread was the predominant mode of transmission (80%; table 3).

**Table 1 Outbreaks of infectious intestinal disease by pathogen, England and Wales: 2006**

<b>Pathogen</b>	<b>Number of outbreaks</b>
Norovirus	217
Salmonella	30
Cryptosporidium	18
<i>Clostridium difficile</i>	12
Rotavirus	11
<i>Escherichia coli</i> O157	9
<i>Clostridium perfringens</i>	8
Astrovirus	1
<i>Giardia lamblia</i>	1
<i>Shigella flexneri</i>	1
<i>Sh. sonnei</i>	1
<i>Staphylococcus aureus</i>	1
Mixed aetiology	11
Other	3
Unknown	405
<b>Total</b>	<b>729</b>

**Table 2 Outbreaks of infectious intestinal disease by venue, England and Wales: 2006**

<b>Place</b>	<b>Number of outbreaks</b>
Residential institution	328
School	183
Hospital	98
Commercial catering premises	62
Swimming pool	14
Club/Centre/Hall	13
Private house	7
University/College	6
Shop - retailer	4
Farm	3
Community	1
Holiday camp	1
Shop - caterer	1
Other	8
<b>Total</b>	<b>729</b>

**Table 3 Outbreaks of infectious intestinal disease by pathogen and mode, England and Wales: 2006**

Pathogen	Person to Person	Foodborne	Other/Unknown	Total
Norovirus	181	3	33	217
Salmonella	1	24	5	30
Cryptosporidium	1	–	17	18
<i>Clostridium difficile</i>	11	–	1	12
Rotavirus	11	–	–	11
<i>Escherichia coli</i> O157	3	4	2	9
<i>Clostridium perfringens</i>	1	6	1	8
Astrovirus	1	–	–	1
<i>Giardia lamblia</i>	–	–	1	1
<i>Shigella flexneri</i>	–	–	1	1
<i>Sh. sonnei</i>	1	–	–	1
<i>Staphylococcus aureus</i>	–	1	–	1
Mixed aetiology	9	1	1	11
Other	1	2	–	3
Unknown	359	17	29	405
<b>Total</b>	<b>580</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>729</b>

**Table 4 Outbreak of infectious intestinal disease by venue and mode, England and Wales : 2006**

Place	Person to Person	Foodborne	Other/Unknown	Total
Residential institution	300	4	24	328
School	175	1	7	183
Hospital	68	–	30	98
Commercial catering premises	18	38	6	62
Swimming pool	–	–	14	14
Club/Centre/Hall	9	2	2	13
Private house	1	5	1	7
University/College	4	–	2	6
Shop - retailer	–	4	–	4
Farm	–	–	3	3
Community	–	1	–	1
Holiday camp	1	–	–	1
Shop - caterer	–	1	–	1
Other	4	2	2	8
<b>Total</b>	<b>580</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>729</b>