



# COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE PUBLIC HEALTH ALERT

COMMUNITY HEALTH AGENCY ■ DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH ■ DISEASE CONTROL  
BRANCH

September 19, 2006

## Reporting E. coli 0157:H7 Infections

Due to the ongoing E. coli 0157:H7 infections outbreak associated with spinach, the California Department of Health Services issued an advisory requesting hospitals conduct a survey for cases of hemolytic uremic syndrome (HUS) with onsets between August 1, 2006 and the present. **Cases should be reported to Disease Control at (951) 358-5107 or fax (951) 358-5102.**

### HEMOLYTIC UREMIC SYNDROME, POST DIARRHEAL (1996 CASE DEFINITION)

(<http://www.cdc.gov/EPO/DPHS/casedef/hemolyticcurrent.htm>)

#### Clinical description

Hemolytic uremic syndrome (HUS) is characterized by the acute onset of microangiopathic hemolytic anemia, renal injury, and low platelet count. Thrombotic thrombocytopenic purpura (TTP) also is characterized by these features but can include central nervous system (CNS) involvement and fever and may have a more gradual onset. Most cases of HUS (but few cases of TTP) occur after an acute gastrointestinal illness (usually diarrheal).

#### Laboratory criteria for diagnosis

The following are both present at some time during the illness

- Anemia (acute onset) with microangiopathic changes (i.e., schistocytes, burr cells or helmet cells) on peripheral blood smear and
- Renal injury (acute onset) evidenced by either hematuria, proteinuria, or elevated creatinine level (i.e., greater than or equal to 1.0 mg/dL in a child aged less than 13 years or greater than or equal to 1.5 mg/dL in a person aged greater than or equal 13 years, or greater than or equal to 50% increase over baseline)

Note: A low platelet count can usually, but not always, be detected early in the illness, but it may then become normal or even high. If a platelet count obtained within 7 days after onset of the acute gastrointestinal illness is not less than 150,000/mm<sup>3</sup>, other diagnoses should be considered.

#### Case classification

Probable:

- An acute illness diagnosed as HUS or TTP that meets the laboratory criteria in a patient who does not have a clear history of acute or bloody diarrhea in preceding 3 weeks or
- An acute illness diagnosed as HUS or TTP, that **a)** has onset within 3 weeks after onset of an acute or bloody diarrhea and **b)** meets the laboratory criteria except that microangiopathic changes are not confirmed.

Confirmed:

- An acute illness diagnosed as HUS or TTP that both meets the laboratory criteria and began within 3 weeks onset of an episode of acute or bloody diarrhea