

Reporting criteria for Enterohemorrhagic *Escherichia coli* infection

(1) Definition

Systemic disease caused by Verotoxin/Shigatoxin-producing (enterohemorrhagic) *E. coli* (VTEC/STEC/EHEC) infection

(2) Clinical signs and symptoms

Typical signs and symptoms are abdominal pain, watery diarrhea and/or bloody diarrhea. Vomiting or high fever (may be as high as 38°C) may also be present. Hemolytic anemia and acute renal failure, i.e., hemolytic-uremic syndrome (HUS), may occur due to the Verotoxin. Among the young and the elderly, convulsions, coma or encephalopathy may occur, with potentially fatal consequences.

(3) Reporting criteria

a) “Patients (confirmed cases)”

In compliance with Article 12 paragraph 1 of the Infectious Diseases Control Law, if a physician has examined a patient with clinical signs or symptoms as described in (2), suspected EHEC infection, and has made a diagnosis of EHEC infection based on the results obtained by the laboratory method and specimen as described below, the physician shall notify the case immediately.

b) “Asymptomatic infections”

In compliance with Article 12 paragraph 1 of the Infectious Diseases Control Law, if a physician has examined an individual without clinical signs or symptoms listed in (2), but has diagnosed that the individual was an asymptomatic case of EHEC infection based on the results obtained by the laboratory method and specimen as described below, the physician shall notify the case immediately.

c) “Deceased individual whose death was attributed to EHEC infection”

In compliance with Article 12 paragraph 1 of the Infectious Diseases Control Law, if a physician has examined a deceased person with clinical signs as described in (2), and, has diagnosed that the death was due to EHEC infection based on the results obtained by the laboratory methods and specimens as described below, the physician shall notify the case immediately.

d) “Deceased individual whose death was suspected to be due to EHEC infection”

In compliance with Article 12 paragraph 1 of the Infectious Diseases Control Law, if a physician has examined a deceased person with clinical signs as described in (2) and has suspected that the death was caused by EHEC infection, the physician shall notify the case immediately.

Laboratory method	Specimen
Detection of the pathogen by isolation and identification of the pathogen and confirmation of Verotoxin using the following methods: 1) Confirmation of toxin production 2) Detection of the toxin-encoding gene by PCR or other methods	Stool
Detection of Verotoxin (restricted to HUS cases)	
Detection of O antigen agglutinating antibody or anti-VT antibody (restricted to HUS cases)	Serum