**PUBLIC HEALTH ALERT**

The Public Health Agency of Canada is collaborating with Saskatchewan, Alberta, and Manitoba Health Authorities, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency and Health Canada to investigate a cluster of *E. coli* O157:H7 cases.

A national Outbreak Investigation Coordinating Committee (OICC) was established on Tuesday, July 22, 2014. To date, 6 cases with matching PFGE patterns have been reported in Canada (SK=3, MB=2, AB=1).

**CASE DEFINITIONS**

**Confirmed case:** A resident of or visitor to Canada with

* Laboratory confirmation of *E. coli* O157:H7 **AND**
* PFGE pattern combination ECXAI.1398/ECBNI.1212 **AND**
* Symptom onset or laboratory confirmation on or after June 1, 2014

**Probable case:** A resident of or visitor to Canada with

* Laboratory confirmation of *E. coli* O157:H7 **AND**
* PFGE pending **AND**
* Symptom onset or laboratory confirmation on or after June 1, 2014

**Suspect case:** A resident of or visitor to Canada with

* Symptoms\* consistent with *E. coli* O157:H7 infection **AND**
* An epidemiological link to a confirmed case **AND**
* Symptom onset on or after June 1, 2014

\*Diarrhea (three or more loose stools within 24 hours)

**EPIDEMIOLOGICAL SUMMARY**

* Age range: 7 to 82 years (median age = 31 years)
* Sex: 67% (4/6) female
* Onset date range: June 28 to July 4, 2014

In collaboration with provincial and laboratory partners, epidemiological information for the cases is currently being reviewed. Investigations are ongoing to determine the source and the scope of the issue.

**ACTION:**

Please report any cases of *E. coli* O157:H7 with PFGE pattern ECXAI.1398 and/or ECBNI.1212 with symptom onset on or after June 1st, 2014 to your Provincial/Territorial representatives. Provincial Health representatives, in turn, are asked to notify the Outbreak Management Division (OMD) at entericoutbreak@phac-aspc.gc.ca or (519) 555-1234.