

Open Farms – Learning from the Griffin Report
Moving forward –
A Health Protection Approach



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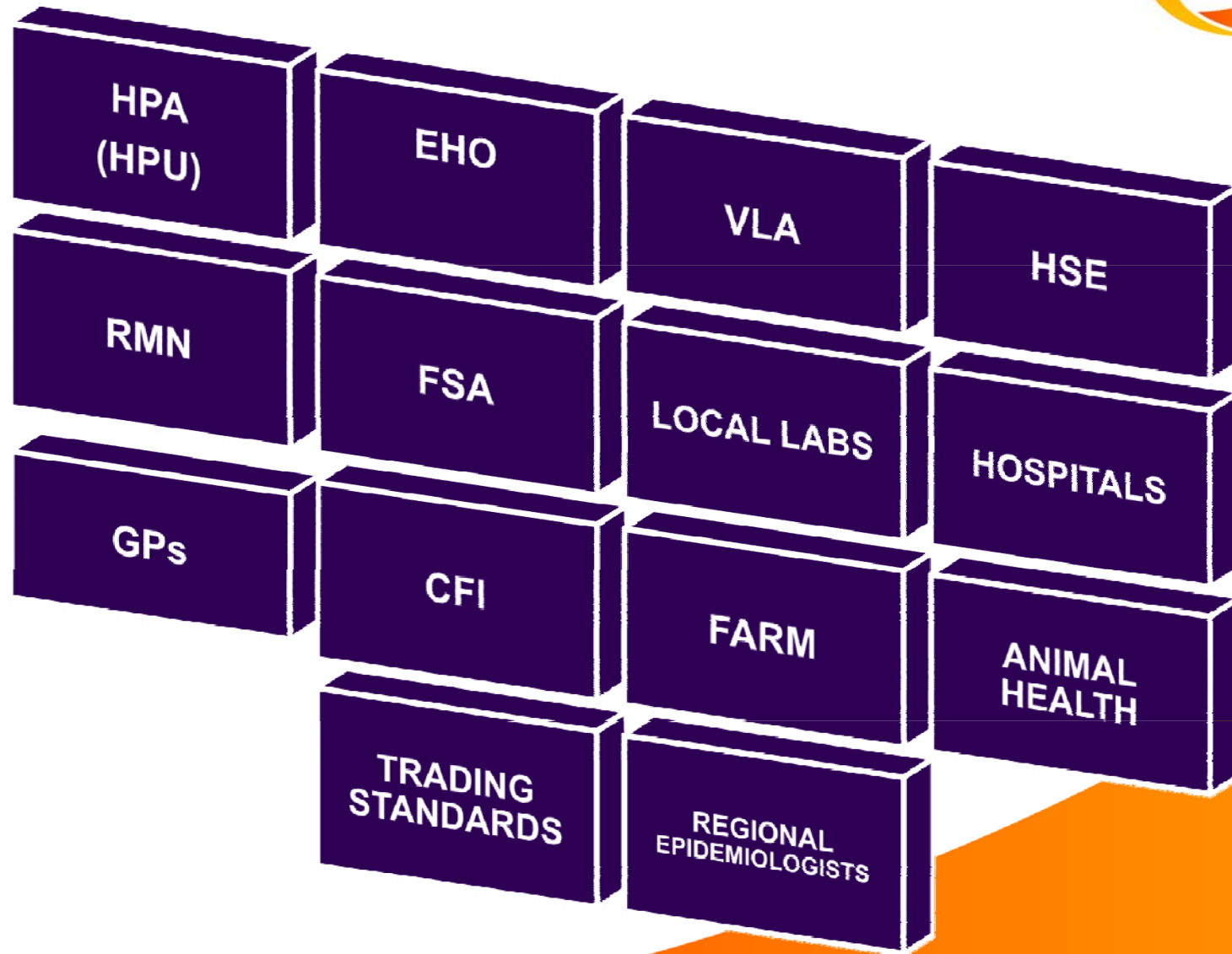
For CIEH SE Regional Forum – 29th September 2010

18 October 2010

GODSTONE FARM OUTBREAK



PARTNERSHIP WORKING



Griffin Report – June 2010



43 recommendations

23 are for HPA to lead or contribute to:

- Identification and control of outbreaks (8)
- Risk perception, assessment and management (2)
- Regulation, Inspection and Standards (5)
- Awareness, Education and Training (3)
- Further research (5)

HPA – National Picture



- **Action List**
- **SOP for local labs**
- **Role of RMN in VTEC outbreak investigations**
- **Standards and training**
- **VTEC Operational Manual**
- **VTEC Supporting Document**
- **Guidance**



ACTION LIST



24th June 2010

Griffin and recommendations

Timescales – July 2010 to April 2011

Named leads

Methods of delivery and verification

Managed by Emergency Response Division



SOP for Local Labs



*'Clinical laboratories should report all **PRESUMPTIVE** cases of E.coli O157 infection **PROMPTLY** to the local HPU'*

PRESUMPTIVE E.COLI O157

=

PUBLIC HEALTH ACTION

because

85-90% of all presumptive E.coli O157 are confirmed by CFI

Role of Regional Microbiology Network (RMN) in VTEC Outbreaks



Clinical Microbiology Support

- Testing of contacts and cases
- Specialist micro testing for case finding
- Specialist molecular testing
- Member of OCT
- Expert interpretation of data from reference lab
- Provide microbiology advice



Role of Regional Microbiology Network (RMN) in VTEC Outbreaks



Food, Water and Environmental Microbiology Support

- Testing of samples
- Advice on samples to take, kits / containers
- Assist with sampling
- Arrange transport of samples
- Specialist rapid molecular testing
- Member of OCT
- Expert interpretation of data from reference lab
- Act as witnesses for prosecutions

VTEC OPERATIONAL MANUAL



Essential operational guidance for HPA staff dealing with incidents of VTEC infection

Part A. Operational guidance for HPUs

Part B. Responsibilities within the HPA for the identification and alerting of individual cases and clusters of VTEC

Issued: 4th August 2010



VTEC - The 'Grass Head' Effect

When the hairs on the back of your head stand up!



All cases of
VTEC are
URGENT

WHY?

- Prevent more cases from source
- Prevent secondary cases

CASE DEFINITIONS



Case Definition	Lab findings	Public Health Action
POSSIBLE	Awaiting lab results	No
PROBABLE	Local Lab Presumptive E.coli O157 (biochemical identification)	YES
CONFIRMED	Reference Lab (CFI) Confirmed E.coli O157 (Vero cytotoxin genes)	YES

IMMEDIATE ACTIONS



On day of notification

- Using **VTEC Enhanced Surveillance Questionnaire**
- Identify potential sources and assess risk of continued exposure
- Identify contacts and determine if in 'high risk groups'
- Identify linked cases and check links to other outbreaks
- Arrange lab investigations – cases and contacts
- Consider other micro sampling
- Implement control measures
- Communications
- Review of risk assessment and actions

HIGH RISK GROUPS



Group	Description
A	Doubtful personal hygiene including children up to 7 yrs. Unsatisfactory WC, hand washing or drying facilities at home, work, school.
B	Children 5 yrs old and under attending school, pre-school, nursery or similar groups
C	Work involves preparing or serving unwrapped foods either raw or not subjected to further heating
D	Clinical, social care or nursery staff who work with young children, elderly, or vulnerable groups and whose activities increase the risk of transferring infection via faeco-oral route. Eg feeding or handling objects that could be transferred to the mouth.

EXCLUSIONS and MICROBIOLOGICAL CLEARANCE



High Risk Group A-D	Exclusion	Microbiological Clearance
<u>CASES</u>		
Yes	Yes	Yes – After 24 hours of normal stools, need 2 negatives, 24 hours apart
No	Yes	No – 48 hours of normal stools
<u>CONTACTS</u> <u>(Household / Close)</u>		
Yes (With/without symptoms)	Yes	Yes – 2 negatives, 24 hours apart
No (Suspicious symptoms)	Yes	Yes – 1 negative
No (Asymptomatic)	No	No

Special Outbreak Settings – OPEN FARMS



HPU responsibilities

- Lead and co-ordinate outbreak management
- Provide advice to key partners
- Work with and support key partners
- Conduct risk assessment
- Convene OCT meeting or teleconference
- Case finding
- Epidemiological analysis
- Close outbreak



Special Outbreak Settings – OPEN FARMS



LA responsibilities

- Contact implicated open farm
- Urgent visit to open farm
- Discuss initial control measures with open farm
- Enforcement of control measures eg .restricting public access to animals / farm closure / compliance with HSE AIS 23
- Monitoring of open farm activities etc while outbreak is ongoing
- Microbiological sampling (VLA animals, LA environment)

Special Outbreak Settings – OPEN FARMS



Joint responsibilities

- Discuss clear criteria for re-opening an open farm if closure initiated
- Out of hours contact arrangements
- Media handling approach
- Review effectiveness of control measures
- Outbreak report



Special Outbreak Settings – NURSERIES & PRIMARY SCHOOLS



Coming soon – ETA Sept 2010



VTEC SUPPORTING DOCUMENT



Background evidence for the Public Health Management of infection with Verotoxigenic *Escherichia coli* (VTEC)

Issued: 4th August 2010



VTEC SUPPORTING DOCUMENT



Clinical features

Transmission

Epidemiology

Role of GPs, front line clinicians, and laboratories

Role of HPA

- Management of cases and contacts
- Management of potential and actual outbreaks
- Management of suspected sources and vehicles



GUIDANCE – OPEN FARMS



HSE AIS 23 '*Avoiding ill health at open farms – Advice to farmers' with teachers supplement* (June 2009)

DH/DEFRA/HPA leaflet '*Avoiding infection on farm visits – Advice for the public*' (August 2010)

HPA/DEFRA/VLA/Animal Health/FSA – '*Guidelines for the investigation of zoonotic disease (England and Wales)*' (April 2009)

HSE/LaCORS/HPA joint statement – '*Understanding and managing the risks from E.coli O157 in an open farm context*' (23rd March 2010)

HPA – SE REGIONAL PICTURE



SOUTH EAST REGION

- Kent HPU (13)
- Hampshire and Isle of Wight HPU (14)
- Surrey and Sussex HPU (24)
- Thames Valley HPU (16)

Covers 67 LA Environmental Health Depts

Working with Local Authorities



SE Region Working Group

4 HPU representatives

- To describe how each HPU works with LAs in their area
- To identify good practice
- To make recommendations to help increase consistency across the region



HPA – LOCAL PICTURE



Surrey and Sussex HPU

- Local Agreement
- Outbreak Plan
- 'Investigation of single cases of infectious disease' plan
- Health Protection Regs toolkit
- Training seminars
- Outbreak debriefs



HEALTH PROTECTION REGS TOOLKIT



Working with Lewes EH dept

CIEH and LACORS interest

HPU interest

Grab and Go toolkit to cover:

- Notification process
- Proper officer role
- Local Authority Powers, inc Reg 8
- Part 2A Orders

Reg 8 – Request for Co-operation



- **Food handler with S. typhoid**
- **Closure of nursery – E.coli O157**





A Final Thought

The acting profession has a saying -

**‘NEVER WORK WITH CHILDREN
AND ANIMALS’**





But if you really have to, then ...

