

Alert- 1 July 2011

There is currently an outbreak of E. coli O104 in Germany and there is the potential for Australian travelers to be affected. It is recommended that GPs take a travel history and consider the diagnosis of Shiga toxin-producing E. coli (STEC) and Hemolytic Uraemic Syndrome (HUS) in patients who have travelled to Germany in the two weeks before onset of diarrhoea.

In such patients, take a stool specimen and specifically request examination for STEC infection. GPs should contact their local public health authority for more information and to report cases of STEC or HUS.

For more information on the E. coli O104 outbreak in Germany visit

<http://www.euro.who.int/en/what-we-do/health-topics/emergencies/international-health-regulations/ehc-outbreak-in-germany>

Australian updates will be posted on the RACGP home page as they become available. RACGP link <http://www.racgp.org.au>