

Community Connections



E Coli Risk Policy

Commencement Date: 6st January 2024

Review Date: 6st January 2025

Signed: Mrs N Butler

E Coli Risk Assessment Community Connections

E. coli is a bacterium that lives in the gut of animals. Most strains of E. Coli are harmless to humans, but others, such as E. coli 0157, can lead to illnesses ranging from diarrhoea to kidney failure and can be life-threatening in extreme cases.

Cattle and sheep are the main carriers of E. coli 0157, although infection can also be found in other farm animals, farm dogs and wild animals such as birds.

Infection is transmitted through contact with animal faeces, and this can occur in many ways, including direct contact with animals and environments contaminated by animal faeces, and through consuming contaminated food. It can also be spread from person to person.

We provide hand washing facilities at the top of the farm and hand sanitiser in places where there is a risk of coming into contact with the bacteria.

Assessing the risks to who

People working on the farm

Volunteers

Visitors

Students

Preventative measures

Hand washing with running water, soap and paper towels.

All visitors to keep to the path around the farm. Visitors to use foot mats after visiting the farm

Workers to use foot mats on a regular basis. Workers to wear enclosed footwear at all time.

Door handles, work surfaces, gate latches to be cleaned on a regular basis

Ensure that all public areas are free from any build-up of livestock faeces. Reduce exposure and cross-contamination by regularly cleaning animal soiling on paths and walkways.

All outside waste bins to be securely covered

All outside bin lids to be disinfected on a daily basis.

Full training to be given to all staff, volunteers and students, both permanent and seasonal, about the human health risks of working with animals and, if necessary, on providing guidance to visitors.

Ensure all visitors wash their hands after handling or touching animals.

No food or drinks in the animal areas and to only touch food after hands have been washed with soap and water.

We are aware visits to farms cannot be completely free from the risk of contamination, as even very low numbers of micro-organisms can cause infection in humans.

By us planning guidelines carefully we can help to minimise any contact with contaminated bedding or faeces and thereby minimise cross-contamination.

To minimise the risk of contamination, no eating of food or drinking in petting areas.

This policy was last reviewed on: 6thst January 2024

Signed: N Butler

Renew Date 6th January 2025 or as needed