



E. COLI UPDATE

As of September 19, 2023:

CASES: 1 new case of E. coli O157 was confirmed. There are a total of 13 cases. The onset date range (date symptoms begin) was July 22 - August 31. Symptoms typically start 3- 4 days after swallowing the bacteria and can last 5 - 7 days.

FINDINGS: 12 out of 13 of the cases had confirmed PI water exposure. The investigation linked the source of the cases to using pressurized irrigation for drinking and recreation, such as running through sprinklers or playing on slip-n-slides, bounce houses, kiddie pools and outdoor water tables. There is currently no evidence that the cases came from incidental exposure, such as playing in the grass or on a play structure.

CITY MITIGATION EFFORTS: The Water Department is continuing to treat the Sandpit Reservoir through the end of the irrigation season (October 15) with a drip-dosing system of copper sulfate (treatment levels are safe for pets and livestock). Even with the treatment, the PI water will not reach the standard of culinary drinking water.

REMINDERS:

If you choose to use PI water, please remember the following:

- Do not drink pressurized irrigation (PI) water (this includes pets).
- Do not play in PI water.
- Irrigation water should not be used for bounce houses, pools, slip-n-slides, etc.
- Though there are no Lehi cases linked to uncooked produce, be cautious with uncooked produce from your garden. It is currently recommended by the CDC that you do not consume uncooked produce from your personal garden.
- Keep outside toys out of the mouth of children
- Always practice good hygiene of thoroughly washing hands and keeping hands out of the mouth.
- You can safely handle contaminated items with your hands without getting sick if you thoroughly wash your hands before handling food, before handling something you may put in your mouth, or before touching your mouth and nose.

For more information, visit www.lehi-ut.gov/e-coli-information/. Questions can be sent to communityhealth@lehi-ut.gov. To receive up-to-date City notices and emergency alerts, visit Everbridge Alerts at <https://member.everbridge.net/1332612387832225/new> or scan the QR code below.



EVERBRIDGE ALERT SYSTEM

###



E. COLI UPDATE

As of September 6, 2023:

CASES: No new cases or hospitalizations have been reported over the past 2-3 weeks. There were 12 cases overall, with 6 hospitalized (1 with hemolytic uremic syndrome [HUS]). The last known PI water exposure date related to a Lehi case was August 4th.

FINDINGS: The investigation linked the source of the cases to using pressurized irrigation for drinking and recreation, such as running through sprinklers or playing on slip-n-slides, bounce houses, and kiddie pools. There is currently no evidence that the cases came from incidental exposure, such as playing in the grass or on a play structure.

CITY MITIGATION EFFORTS: The Water Department will continue to monitor and treat the Sandpit Reservoir through the end of the irrigation season (October 15) with a drip-dosing system of copper sulfate (treatment levels are safe for pets and livestock). The available testing has indicated reduced counts of coliform and E. coli. Even with the treatment, the PI water will not reach the standard of culinary drinking water.

REMINDERS:

If you choose to use PI water, please remember the following:

- Do not drink pressurized irrigation (PI) water (this includes pets).
- Do not play in PI water.
- Irrigation water should not be used for bounce houses, pools, slip-n-slides, etc.
- Though there are no Lehi cases linked to uncooked produce, be cautious with uncooked produce from your garden. It is currently recommended by the CDC that you do not consume uncooked produce from your personal garden.
- Keep outside toys out of the mouth of children
- Always practice good hygiene of thoroughly washing hands and keeping hands out of the mouth.
- You can safely handle contaminated items with your hands without getting sick if you thoroughly wash your hands before handling food, before handling something you may put in your mouth, or before touching your mouth and nose.

For more information, visit www.lehi-ut.gov/e-coli-information/. Questions can be sent to communityhealth@lehi-ut.gov. To receive up-to-date City notices and emergency alerts, visit Everbridge Alerts at <https://member.everbridge.net/1332612387832225/new> or scan the QR code below.



EVERBRIDGE ALERT SYSTEM

###



2538 North 300 West
Lehi, UT 84043
385-201-1000

CITY NOTICE

August 28, 2023

Dear Lehi Resident,

This letter is an effort to ensure every Lehi resident is informed of the current E. coli O157 situation. It was announced on Saturday, August 19th that an ongoing investigation into recent E. coli cases in Lehi led to the detection of E. coli O157 in samples collected from pressurized irrigation (PI) water sources in Lehi. Samples were taken from the Sandpit Reservoir and nine exposures sites on Monday, August 14th. E. coli O157 was found in the sediment of the tested reservoir and at five of the exposure sites.

The investigation linked the source of the outbreak to using pressurized irrigation for drinking and recreation, such as running through sprinklers or playing on slip-n-slides. Currently, the Utah County Health Department has reported a total of 12 cases of E. coli.

Pressurized irrigation water, unlike culinary drinking water, is not treated, leaving it susceptible to contamination by harmful bacteria, including E. coli. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) currently recommends that residents do not water their lawns. They also strongly advise to exercise caution when consuming uncooked produce from personal gardens that have been watered using irrigation water. These fruits and vegetables should only be consumed after thoroughly cooked, as cooking can eliminate the risk of E. coli infection. Washing may not eliminate the bacteria.

Though it is not the norm to treat PI water, Lehi City has created a treatment plan to help deactivate and lower the levels of bacteria. On Monday, August 21 crews from the Water Department shock-treated the Sandpit Reservoir and Low Hills Reservoir, with Sandpit receiving a steady rate of dosing. Crews will diligently conduct water sampling and testing throughout the next few weeks to measure the effectiveness of the solution.

Even with the treatment, there is always a high chance of bacteria. The treatment will not get the PI water to the level and standard of culinary drinking water. This water was never meant to be consumed or played in.

Residents are asked to continue being cautious while using PI water.

- Do not drink pressurized irrigation (PI) water (this includes pets).
- Do not play in PI water.
- Irrigation water should not be used for bounce houses, pools, slip-n-slides, etc.
- Be cautious with uncooked produce from your garden. It is recommended by the CDC that you do not consume UNCOOKED produce from your personal garden at this time.

We understand that there are questions or concerns. For more information, visit the [E. coli information page](#). Questions can be sent to communityhealth@lehi-ut.gov. To receive up-to-date City notices and emergency alerts, visit Everbridge Alerts at <https://member.everbridge.net/1332612387832225/new> or scan the QR code below.



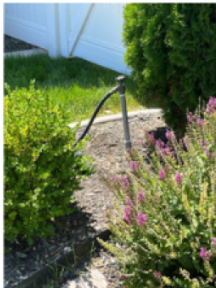
EVERBRIDGE ALERT SYSTEM

Thank you.
Public Works Department
385-201-1700
communityhealth@lehi-ut.gov

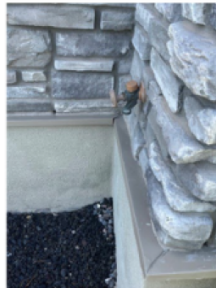


Lehi City maintains separate irrigation and culinary systems. The culinary water division provides safe, clean drinking water by complying to state and federal rules for water quality and distribution.

For over 30 years, Lehi's pressurized irrigation (PI) system has provided irrigation water to residents and businesses as well as the fire suppression system throughout the city. Unlike the City's culinary water system, pressurized irrigation water (PI) is not treated, making it vulnerable to contamination and harmful bacteria, such as E. Coli.



Pressurized Irrigation Water
(Ground water)



Culinary Water
(Connected to residence/building)

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

- 💧 Irrigation water is for lawns not for drinking
- 💧 Drinking or playing in irrigation water can pose a health risk
- 💧 Irrigation water is untreated and may contain harmful bacterium
- 💧 Irrigation water should not be used for bounce houses, pools, slip-n-slides, etc.

www.lehi-ut.gov/departments/water/

Lehi City Implements PI Treatment Plan



Posted August 23rd, 2023 — Category: Newsroom, Uncategorized.

See post [here](#).



Contact: Jeanteil Livingston, Communications Manager
Telephone: (385) 201-2255

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

E. Coli Outbreak Update

Pressurized Irrigation Water Source Confirmed Link to Recent Cases in Lehi

(Lehi, UT) -- An ongoing investigation into recent E. coli cases in Lehi led to the detection of E. coli O157 in samples collected from pressurized irrigation (PI) water sources in Lehi. Samples were taken from a PI reservoir and nine exposure sites on Monday, August 14. E. coli O157 was found in the sediment of the tested reservoir and at five of the exposure sites.

The investigation linked the source of the outbreak to using pressurized irrigation for drinking and recreation, such as running through sprinklers or playing on slip-n-slides. Currently, the Utah County Health Department has reported a total of 12 cases of E. coli. Pressurized irrigation water, unlike culinary water, is not treated, leaving it susceptible to contamination by harmful bacteria, including E. coli. The effects of E. coli can be severe, leading to a range of health issues. **Pressurized irrigation water is not connected to the city culinary drinking water system.** Using culinary water to water the lawn should not be used as an alternative water source.

In light of the findings and following the recommendations of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), residents are strongly advised to exercise caution when consuming uncooked produce from personal gardens that have been watered using irrigation water. These fruits and vegetables should only be consumed after thorough cooking, as cooking can eliminate the risk of E. coli infection. Washing may not eliminate the bacteria.

To prevent further illness from E. coli, residents are encouraged to adhere to the following important reminders and guidelines:

- Irrigation water is not for drinking: Under no circumstances should irrigation water be used for drinking purposes. It is vital to recognize that PI water is untreated and poses a significant health risk if consumed.
- Avoid use in recreational activities: The **CDC has recommended that residents not water their lawns.** Do not use irrigation water for bounce houses, pools, slip-n-slides, or any other recreational activities. It is common for children to swallow or get water in their mouths while playing.

Use caution when allowing children to play on lawns that have been watered with irrigation water. Keep an eye on them when they're outside playing and make sure they don't put their hands or anything else that might be on the lawn in their mouths. E. coli is hardy and can stick

around even when the lawn isn't wet. After they play, make sure you wash their hands thoroughly with soap and water.

- Practice hand hygiene: When tending to your lawn or garden, wear gloves to minimize direct contact with irrigation water. After handling any produce or soil exposed to PI water, thoroughly wash your hands with soap and water.

Residents are encouraged to remain vigilant and monitor their health closely. Symptoms of an E. coli infection may include diarrhea (often bloody), abdominal cramps, nausea, and vomiting. In severe cases, it can lead to kidney failure, especially among young children, the elderly, and individuals with compromised immune systems.

If you or anyone you know experiences any of these symptoms, contact your healthcare provider. For questions regarding E. coli, visit the CDC page at www.cdc.gov/ecoli/general/.

###

CONTACT
Aislynn Tolman-Hill
Public Information Officer
Phone/Mobile: 833-824-3746
833-UCHDPIO

Guidelines to prevent further E. coli outbreak in Utah County

(Provo, UT)-- In the last two weeks, eight cases of [E. coli](#) were reported in Utah County residents, with two of those cases confirmed as E. coli 0157:H7. Currently, all reported cases are residents of Lehi City or have close ties. At least five of the individuals have been hospitalized due to the severity of symptoms.

Epidemiologists are working to identify the source of infection. Preliminary investigation links the likely source of spread to using pressurized irrigation water for drinking and play.

Mark Johnson, Mayor of Lehi City, stated “This is a critical situation, and I am concerned for the public. I want residents to be aware that pressurized irrigation water should not be used for anyone to play in. No one should drink irrigation water that comes to their home.”

The Utah County Health Department, State Health Department, and City of Lehi are working to gather water samples to investigate the source of the bacteria.

Drinking and/or playing in irrigation water could pose a risk to you, your children, and pets. Pressurized irrigation water is untreated and can contain harmful contaminants like E. coli. It is important that the public take steps to reduce the risk of infection for themselves and family members:

- **INDIVIDUALS SHOULD NOT DRINK IRRIGATION WATER** - especially if you do not know if your water source is culinary/potable or a secondary water source, such as landscape or garden irrigation. Contact your local City Public Works office with any questions about a city's water source.
- **INDIVIDUALS SHOULD NOT USE IRRIGATION WATER FOR PLAY** - such as slip-and-slides, inflatable bounce houses, kiddie pools, sprinklers, etc.

If you see or notice any of the following symptoms, contact a Healthcare Provider:

- Bloody diarrhea
- Persistent diarrhea
- Fever
- Nausea
- Vomiting

E. coli can be transmitted from person to person. Good handwashing and hygiene are necessary to prevent the spread. If you have questions about watering your garden or consuming produce from your garden, please visit this article from [USU Extension](#).

For questions concerning [E. coli](#) infections, please contact a healthcare provider.
Media questions and interviews will not be granted at this time.

###



HEALTH RISK

PRESSURIZED IRRIGATION WATER

01

Irrigation water is good for your lawns and crops, but not meant for drinking or play.

02

Drinking and/or playing in irrigation water could pose a risk to you, your children, and pets.

03

Irrigation water is untreated water and may contain harmful microbial contaminants, like E. Coli.

04

When children play on slip-n-slides, bounce houses, kiddie pools, etc. irrigation water should not be used.