

Hemolytic Uremic Syndrome

Agent: Serious sequelae associated with infection with shiga toxin-producing bacteria, such as *Escherichia coli* or *Shigella*.

Mode of Transmission: See section on *E. coli* Infection, Shiga Toxin-Producing or Shigellosis.

Signs/Symptoms: Classic signs of hemolytic uremic syndrome (HUS) include red blood cell destruction (hemolytic anemia), low number of platelets (thrombocytopenia), and acute kidney failure. Symptoms include decreased frequency of urination, fatigue, progression to kidney failure, often requiring dialysis, as well as neurological impairment (e.g., stroke or seizures). HUS, if it occurs, develops on average seven days after the first symptoms of infection.

Prevention: See section on *E. coli* Infection, Shiga Toxin-Producing or Shigellosis.

Other Important Information: Five to ten percent of persons diagnosed with shiga toxin-producing *E. coli* infection develop HUS. The syndrome occurs in up to 20% of children with *E. coli* O157 infection. See section on *E. coli* Infection, Shiga Toxin-Producing or Shigellosis.

Two cases of HUS were reported in 2009. This is slightly more than the five-year average of 1.4 cases per year. One case was attributed to shiga toxin-producing *E. coli*, while no organism was found to be associated with the other case. Both illnesses occurred in children in the 1-9 year age group. One case was reported from the southwest region and the other from the central region. One occurred in the second quarter and the other occurred in the third quarter of the year.