**Causative Agent:** *Escherichia coli* bacteria

**Mode of Transmission:** Ingestion (undercooked meat, contaminated water, raw milk); direct contact less often

**Incubation Period:** Human: 2-9 days (3-4 days most common)

Animals: Uncertain; fecal shedding weeks to months

 **Clinical Signs Human:** Acute watery or bloody diarrhea; cramps with little or no fever; nausea; vomiting; fatigue. (Commonly lasts about one week.) Occasionally hemolytic uremic syndrome (HUS) which is a combination of symptoms that includes kidney failure, anemia, and blood clotting problems. Children <5 yrs of age, elderly and immunosuppressed individuals are at serious risk.

 **Clinical Signs Animal:** This organism generally does not cause disease in cattle; E. coli can cause diarrhea in calves and mastitis in cows.

**Control and Prevention:** Good personal hygiene; thoroughly cook meat

**Comments:** Person to person transmission has been observed.