

Meet the Superbugs

Escherichia coli

Also called: *E. coli* **Say it:** Esh-er-EE-key-ah Kohl-eye

About: One of the most common bacteria living in our intestines, this bacteria can cause serious infections and are able to become resistant to many antibiotics, including the important carbapenem-class.^{1,3}

Shape: Rod² **Year identified:** 1885²

Potential threats include: Urinary tract infections, food poisoning, abdominal infections, blood stream infections and sepsis³

One way to fight this superbug: Wash hands regularly with clean running water and soap⁴

1. CDC, *E. coli* (*Escherichia coli*) Questions and Answers. Available at: <https://www.cdc.gov/ecoli/general/index.html>. Last accessed August 2020.
2. Ji Youn Lim, A Brief Overview of *Escherichia coli* O157:H7 and Its Plasmid O157, National Institute of Health, Available at: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3645889/> Last accessed August 2020.
3. Mandell, Douglas, and Bennett's Principles and Practice of Infectious Diseases, 7th edition, edited by Gerald L. Mandell, John E. Bennett, and Raphael Dolin, 2009
4. CDC When and How to Wash Your Hands, last referenced August 2020, <https://www.cdc.gov/handwashing/when-how-handwashing.html>

Breakthroughs that
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