

Ecologia was appointed by insurers to manage decontamination of a children's nursery in Scotland following a serious outbreak of *E. coli* O157 which was reported on the national news.

Ecologia was required to provide a suitable clean up strategy and to supervise of the decontamination work, as well as liaise with the relevant Authorities.

Clean-up procedure

The most appropriate decontamination procedure was selected to ensure that all potential sources of the pathogenic *E. coli* O157 were completely eliminated. In agreement with the Authorities, the nursery was thoroughly decontaminated using a four-stage procedure including application of a liquid disinfectant via an atomising fogging machine, bagging and disposal of 'high-risk' items, followed by thorough, manual cleaning of all surfaces. Final treatment included reapplication of the disinfectant (applied via an atomising fogging machine). This clean up approach was considered highly appropriate for a children's nursery, as all sanitising products used during the clean-up do not leave any harmful residues.



Post decontamination microbial survey

An extensive microbial survey was undertaken after completion of the disinfection works by an independent laboratory operating in accordance with UKAS accredited procedures. The microbial counts on all seventy nine swab samples were below the UK HPA guidance values permitted for 'Recently cleaned surfaces that are in use for serving food'. Most importantly, *E. coli* O 157 were absent in all swab samples.

The decontamination work and microbial surveys organised by Ecologia were accomplished within eight working days from receipt of instructions, thereby ensuring that re-opening of the nursery was accomplished in the shortest timeframe significantly reducing business interruption costs for insurers.