

## Microbiology Update – 3 August 2020

### [BfR addresses risk of E. coli in flour](#)

The German risk assessment agency has issued an opinion after STEC was frequently found in flour samples. Shiga toxin-producing E. coli (STEC) was detected in multiple flour samples (wheat, spelt and rye) from mills during routine food monitoring in Germany in 2018. The Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture (BMEL) asked the German Federal Institute to assess the sources, risk and prevention of STEC in flour.

Members may recall that Nabim contacted BRC to discuss provision of advice to consumers on packs of flour. We can discuss the risk assessment at the next MWG and it would be helpful to have members views on whether this changes the position.

### [Nearly half of people risk illness from undercooked burgers](#)

A Food Safety News article states that almost half of people surveyed in Ireland are at risk of getting sick from eating undercooked hamburgers. A total of 45 percent of respondents are risking illness from eating undercooked burgers because they don't cook them to high enough temperatures to kill pathogens such as bacteria, viruses and parasites.

### [Zucchini linked to rare poisonings in England](#)

Zucchini seeds are suspected to be behind several cases of illness in England. Zucchini thought to be due to presence of a naturally occurring compound. When this is at a high enough level it can lead to symptoms such as nausea and diarrhea. Four families in Castle Acre, Norfolk, reported feeling unwell after eating produce they had grown.

### [Study suggests higher risk of Toxoplasma infection from venison](#)

A study on the presence of Toxoplasma gondii in retail meat in Scotland has highlighted venison as potentially high risk. Toxoplasma gondii DNA was detected in 48 of 149 venison samples over two sampling periods. Findings could be used to inform quantitative microbial risk assessments of toxoplasmosis in Scotland.

### [Listeria in enoki mushrooms](#)

France has become the fifth country to report Listeria in enoki mushrooms from South Korea. It was already known that 36 people fell sick and four died in the United States from November 2016 to December 2019. Six illnesses were recorded in Canada between 2017 and 2019 and five in Australia between October 2017.