



2096 Red Arrow Trail  
Madison, WI 53711  
608-275-6740

## Shigellosis

### Communicable Disease Exposure Notice

Dear Parents:

Your child may have been exposed to the communicable disease **Shigellosis (shigella)** in a Reach Dane/Reach Green classroom on the following date\_\_\_\_\_.

Please review the information below. If you have any questions, or if your child begins experiencing symptoms of the illness, contact your child's primary care provider or one of the agencies listed below.

Public Health – Madison & Dane County

(608) 266-4821

Green County Health Department

(608) 328-9390

#### **What is shigellosis?**

Shigellosis is a bacterial infection. Approximately 300-400 cases are reported in Wisconsin each year. Most shigellosis infections are seen in the summer and early fall. It is most often seen in young children, especially children at day care centers. Animals cannot be infected by or carry shigellosis.

#### **What are the symptoms of shigellosis?**

Individuals infected with the bacteria *Shigella* may experience abdominal cramping, fever and mild or severe diarrhea, often with traces of blood or mucous in the stool. Some infected people may not show any symptoms.

#### **How does a person get shigellosis?**

*Shigella* bacteria are found in the intestinal tract of infected people who in turn may contaminate food or water. The bacteria are spread by eating or drinking contaminated food or water or by direct or indirect contact with poop particles from an infected person.

#### **How long does it take to develop shigellosis following exposure?**

The symptoms may appear 1 to 7 days after exposure but they usually appear within 2 to 3 days.

#### **How is shigellosis treated?**

Shigellosis can be treated with antibiotics. Your health care provider can advise you on treatment options. Some people may require fluids to prevent or treat dehydration.

## Shigellosis

---

### Communicable Disease Exposure Notice

#### **How long is a child with shigellosis excluded from childcare?**

Children are excluded from the classroom until two negative stool samples are obtained. Your doctor or the Department of Public Health can advise you about when your child can return to school.

#### **How can I limit the spread of shigellosis?**

Persons with shigellosis symptoms should seek prompt medical care. All children and adults should practice good hand washing technique. Hand washing with soap and running water is the single most important preventive measure to interrupt the transmission to shigellosis, especially during an outbreak. Because young children are most likely to be infected with *Shigella* and are also most likely to infect others, a strict policy of supervised hand washing for young children after toileting and before eating is particularly important.