



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Region IV Public Health
Clark, Cowlitz, Skamania, Wahkiakum counties
and Cowlitz Tribe

Health Advisory

Please deliver a copy of the accompanying alert to each provider in your organization.

Thank you

Questions regarding this alert may be directed to the office of:

Alan Melnick, MD, MPH
Health Officer

Clark County Public Health

(360) 397-8412

Please Distribute

Categories of Health Alert messages:

Health Alert: conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention.

Health Advisory: provides important information for specific incident for situation; may not require immediate action.

Health Update: provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; no immediate action necessary.



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HEALTH ADVISORY

February 3, 2014

TO: Physicians and other Healthcare Providers

FROM: Alan Melnick, MD, MPH, CPH, Health Officer

RE: Shigellosis in a Pre-School, Clark County

Recently, a case of Shigella attended Clark College Early Childhood Education Center. Clark County Public Health is taking precautions to prevent transmission, which may include directing persons to their healthcare providers for follow-up.

You as a provider may be receiving calls from parents and/or staff with questions about Shigella symptoms, testing, and/or treatment. If any patients present with symptoms consistent with Shigella please order a stool culture to confirm infection.

We wish to remind healthcare providers that Shigellosis is a notifiable condition in Washington and should be reported to local health jurisdictions within 24 hours.

To report cases of Shigellosis or if you have any questions, please contact your local public health department:

- Clark County Public Health: (360) 397-8182.

Attached is a letter we are sending today to staff and parents of children who attend Clark College Early Childhood Education Center. For additional information on Shigellosis, please see <http://www.cdc.gov/nczved/divisions/dfbmd/diseases/shigellosis/>

Thank you for your partnership.



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CLARK COUNTY
WASHINGTON

Public Health
1601 E. Fourth Plain Blvd.
P. O. Box 9825
Vancouver, WA 98666-8825

DATE: February 3, 2014

TO: Parents/Guardians of Children that attend Clark College Early Learning Center,
Vancouver, WA

FROM: Clark County Public Health

RE: *Shigella* Exposure

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Clark County Public Health is investigating a case of *Shigella* in a child who attended Clark College Early Learning Center while possibly contagious. We are working closely with the school representatives to notify parents of the possible exposure. At this time we have no evidence that there has been any spread of this disease at the Center.

Please monitor your children for any symptoms of *Shigella*. Symptoms of *Shigella* typically include:

- Diarrhea, often bloody
- Nausea
- Vomiting
- Fever
- Abdominal Cramps and Pain

If your child develops any of these symptoms on or prior to February 12th, you should contact your health care provider right away, and notify them that there was a potential exposure to *Shigella*. Please also contact Clark County Public Health immediately to notify us of the illness at 360-397-8022. If your child is ill, do not take them to any preschool, daycare, or church nurseries until speaking with us. This is to prevent the spread of illness to others.

To prevent infection with *Shigella* it is important to follow the practices below:

- Wash hands thoroughly with warm, soapy water, rubbing hands together for at least 20 seconds after using the toilet, after changing a diaper, after cleaning up a child after toileting, and before preparing or serving food.
- Carefully wash all produce, kitchen utensils, and countertops before and after cooking.
- Keep children who are not toilet trained and anyone with diarrhea out of swimming areas.
- Keep children who have diarrhea home from school.
- Children diagnosed with *Shigella* must not return to day care until they have 2 negative stool tests separated by 24 hours

If you have questions, please contact our communicable disease staff at (360) 397-8022. Please see the attached, "*Shigella* Fact Sheet" for further information. Thank you.