

Your child may have been exposed to:

Shigella

Quick Help

If you think your child has *Shigella*

Tell your childcare provider or call the school.

Need to stay home?

Yes, for 24 hours after treatment with antibiotics has been started and until diarrhea has stopped. Children who have *Shigella* in their stools but who do not have symptoms may need to be treated, but do not need to stay home.

School: No, unless the child is not feeling well and/or has diarrhea and needs to use the bathroom frequently.

Prevention

- Wash hands after using the toilet or changing diapers and before preparing or eating food. Your child may need help with handwashing.
- Clean and disinfect any objects that come in contact with stool. This includes toilets (potty chairs), sinks, toys and diaper changing areas. Use a product that kills germs.
- Everyone with *Shigella* in their stools should not use swimming beaches, pools, water parks, spas or hot tubs until 2 weeks after the diarrhea has stopped.

Shigellosis is a bacterial infection of the intestines.

Symptoms:

Your child may have diarrhea (may be watery and or contain blood or mucus), stomach cramps, nausea, vomiting or fever. Illness may last 4 to 7 days. If your child is infected, it may take 1 to 7 days for symptoms to start.

Spread

- By eating or drinking contaminated food or beverages.
- By touching contaminated hands, surfaces or objects.

Contagious Period

The illness can spread as long as *Shigella* bacteria are in the stool; this could be for up to 4 weeks.

Call your Healthcare Provider

- If anyone in your home has symptoms. There is a medical test to detect the bacteria. Antibiotic treatment is available.
- Ask how to prevent dehydration. Your child may lose a lot of water due to vomiting and diarrhea.

For more information, please visit or call:
Oldham County Health Department
1786 Commerce Parkway, LaGrange KY 40031
502-222-3516 ext. 136
www.oldhamcountyhealthdepartment.org

