Your child may have been exposed to:

**Shigellosis**
Shigellosis is a bacterial infection of the intestines.

If you think your child has Shigellosis:

- Tell your childcare provider or call the school.
- **Need to stay home?**
  - **Childcare:**
    - 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.

**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.

**Prevention**
- Wash hands after using the toilet or changing diapers and before preparing food or eating. 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.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION**
Kentucky Department for Public Health Frankfort, KY  http://chfs.ky.gov/dph/
Kentucky Regional Poison Center Louisville, KY  EMERGENCY: 1-800-222-1222
Lake Cumberland District Health Department Somerset, KY  www.lcdhd.org (606) 678-4761
The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Atlanta, GA  Toll free: 1-800-311-3435  www.cdc.gov

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June 2008