

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
 Kentucky Regional Poison Center Louisville, KY
 Lake Cumberland District Health Department Somerset, KY
 The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Atlanta, GA

<http://chfs.ky.gov/dph/>
 EMERGENCY: 1-800-222-1222
www.lcdhd.org (606) 678-4761
 Toll free: 1-800-311-3435 www.cdc.gov

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