



PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY UPDATE:
Shigella Cases Climbing
Information for Child Care Providers

September 13, 2012

From Columbus Public Health and
Franklin County Public Health

What you need to know

The number of cases of Shigellosis (illness caused by Shigella germs) around Columbus and Franklin County continues to rise and more child care centers are being affected.

Now reaching 247 confirmed and probable cases (as of September 9), testing and following the clearance process for returning to childcare has become critical.

Shigella spreads from person to person through the stool (poop) of infected people. It most often spreads when someone does not wash his/her hands well after using the restroom, changing a diaper or helping a child with toileting.

Advise your child care staff and parents to watch for symptoms, stay home when sick and take steps to prevent illness.

What to watch for

Watch for these symptoms:

- Diarrhea (with or without blood or mucus)
- Fever
- Stomach cramps
- Nausea or vomiting
- Some people have no symptoms
- A few people may develop complications such as dehydration or seizures.

What you can do

Prevent

1. Promote careful handwashing, especially after going to the bathroom, after changing diapers, and before preparing foods or beverages.
2. Dispose of soiled diapers properly and disinfect diaper changing areas after using them.
3. Keep children and staff with diarrhea out of child care.
4. Call your local health department if you learn of Shigella cases at your facility.

Testing & Returning to Childcare

1. Children and staff with Shigella cannot return to the facility until their diarrhea has stopped and until two follow-up tests are negative for Shigella (per Ohio law, see right column).
2. A letter from the local health department must be provided to the child care center to clear children or staff to return.
3. For Columbus or Worthington residents to arrange for free testing, call 614-645-1474, option 2. Other Franklin County residents can call (614) 525-3160.

Who is at risk

Children in child care centers and people who change diapers or assist children with toileting.

Family members and playmates of those infected.

People with chronic diseases or weakened immune systems also at risk.

To learn more

[Columbus Public Health – Shigella Information](#)

OAC 3701-3-13 (x) Isolation requirement for Shigellosis:

a person with shigellosis who attends a child care center or works in a sensitive occupation shall be excluded from the child care center or work in the sensitive occupation and may return if diarrhea has ceased and after two consecutive follow-up stool specimens are negative for Shigella.



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Columbus Public Health line:
(614)645-1474 option #2

Franklin County Public Health
(614)525-3160