



## This is an official **DHEC Health Advisory**

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10247- DHA-10-27-11-R1Shig

### **Shigella Outbreak in Anderson County-Update #2**

#### **Summary**

**This Health Advisory updates an advisory sent on October 13, 2011 to healthcare providers in Anderson, Abbeville, and Edgefield Counties, regarding the outbreak of *Shigella* *Sonnei* at Honea Path Elementary School.**

You are receiving this advisory as a healthcare practitioner who may see people with acute GI illness that could be related to this outbreak. Information shared in this advisory is preliminary and may be subject to change as additional cases are reported.

Mitigation measures undertaken thus far in this outbreak include provision of recommendations for enhanced environmental cleaning at the school, repeated education on handwashing—especially for younger children, liberal use of school exclusion for children with symptoms of GI illness, and cancellation of a community activity planned for the school. Despite these measures, the outbreak of *Shigella* among students, faculty/staff, and family members associated with Honea Path Elementary School continues to spread.

**As of October 26, 2011, SC DHEC is aware of 20 culture-confirmed cases and 61 symptomatic probable cases of *Shigella* in persons associated with this school.** Several children have received ED care and at least 3 have been hospitalized. DHEC is also concerned about the possibility of this outbreak spreading to other schools in the Belton-Honea Path area.

#### **Recommendations for Healthcare Providers**

Providers should consider the following management strategies when caring for patients from the Honea Path area with acute GI symptoms:

##### **Provisional Diagnosis**

- Consider *Shigella* in patients presenting with at least two of the following symptoms:
  - Acute onset of diarrhea (loose watery stools, typically with blood or mucus in the stool),
  - Fever 100.4 or higher (38 C),
  - Abdominal pain.

##### **Laboratory Testing**

- Providers should consider testing for culture, and to identify antimicrobial resistance.
- Testing, available commercially, may be done via stool culture or rectal swab.
- As per the SC DHEC 2011 List of Reportable Conditions, isolates from positive specimens are requested to be submitted to the SC DHEC Bureau of Laboratories for confirmatory testing or genotyping.

## Use of Antimicrobials

- *Shigella* is typically a self-limited illness lasting 48 to 72 hours. Usually, treatment is not provided until culture results are available due to the possibility of an *E. coli* species being present.
- However, due to the severity and length of this outbreak, and because multiple cultures have confirmed *Shigella* infection, it would be reasonable to consider culturing and immediate treatment in persons associated with this outbreak.
- The *2009 Red Book* states that, in mild illness, the primary indication for treatment is to prevent spread of illness. Oral antimicrobial treatment can shorten the duration of illness and decrease the spread of organism via feces.
- **Specimens in this outbreak have demonstrated susceptibility to ampicillin, sensitivity to ciprofloxacin, and resistance to trimethoprim-sulfamethoxazole. Providers may consider empiric treatment with ampicillin or ciprofloxacin while awaiting culture and sensitivity results.**
- Ciprofloxacin is not typically used in patients under 18 years of age, but may provide benefit in older patients.

## Revisions to the School and Childcare Exclusion Criteria

DHEC has also revised the school and childcare exclusion criteria for cases associated with this outbreak, to require a student to have 24 or more hours free of diarrhea before return to school. This includes persons with diarrheal illness or persons with lab-confirmed *Shigella*.

### Exclusion criteria are:

- **All Ages:**
  - A healthcare provider must clear any student or faculty/staff member with culture-proven *Shigella* for return to school or out-of-home childcare.
  - Persons who have fever as a *Shigella* symptom should also remain out until more than 24 hours have passed since having a temperature 100 or higher.
- **Students in Grade 1-12:**
  - Students in grades 1-12, who are not medically fragile, and their teachers, should remain home until more than 24 hours have passed since a loose stool.
- **Younger Students:**
  - Kindergarten students, children in out-of home child care, or medically fragile students in grades 1-12 who are diagnosed with *Shigella* are to remain out of school until diarrhea has been absent for at least 24 hours AND either
    1. Completion of 5 full days of antibiotic treatment, or
    2. 1 negative stool culture.

## For additional information

- Contact the Region 1 Outbreak Response Team at: (864) 260-4358.

## References and Resources

- **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention:**
  - <http://www.cdc.gov/nczved/divisions/dfbmd/diseases/shigellosis/>

## DHEC contact information for reportable diseases and reporting requirements

Reporting of suspected or confirmed Shigella cases is consistent with South Carolina Law requiring the reporting of diseases and conditions to your state or local public health department (State Law # 44-29-10 and Regulation # 61-20) as per the DHEC 2011 List of Reportable Conditions available at:

<http://www.scdhec.gov/administration/library/CR-009025.pdf>

Federal HIPAA legislation allows disclosure of protected health information, without consent of the individual, to public health authorities to collect and receive such information for the purpose of preventing or controlling disease. (HIPAA 45 CFR §164.512).

### Regional Public Health Offices – 2011

Mail or call reports to the Epidemiology Office in each Public Health Region.

#### Region 1

##### **Anderson, Oconee**

220 McGee Road  
Anderson, SC 29625  
Phone: (864) 260-4358  
Fax: (864) 260-5623  
Nights / Weekends: 1-866-298-4442

##### **Abbeville, Edgefield, Greenwood, Laurens, McCormick, Saluda**

1736 S. Main Street  
Greenwood, SC 29646  
Phone: 1-888-218-5475  
Fax: (864) 942-3690  
Nights / Weekends: 1-800-420-1915

#### Region 2

##### **Greenville, Pickens**

PO Box 2507  
200 University Ridge  
Greenville, SC 29602-2507  
Phone: (864) 282-4139  
Fax: (864) 282-4373  
Nights / Weekends: (864) 809-3825

##### **Cherokee, Spartanburg, Union**

PO Box 4217  
151 E. Wood Street  
Spartanburg, SC 29305-4217  
Phone: (864) 596-2227, x- 210  
Fax: (864) 596-3443  
Nights / Weekends: (864) 809-3825

#### Region 3

##### **Chester, Lancaster, York**

PO Box 817  
1833 Pageland Highway  
Lancaster, SC 29720  
Phone: (803) 286-9948  
Fax: (803) 286-5418  
Nights / Weekends: 1-866-867-3886

#### Region 3 (continued)

##### **Fairfield, Lexington, Newberry, Richland**

2000 Hampton Street  
Columbia, SC 29204  
Phone: (803) 576-2749  
Fax: (803) 576-2993  
Nights / Weekends: 1-888-554-9915

#### Region 4

##### **Clarendon, Kershaw, Lee, Sumter**

PO Box 1628  
105 North Magnolia Street  
Sumter, SC 29150  
Phone: (803) 773-5511  
Fax: (803) 775-9941  
Nights/Weekends: (803) 458-1847

##### **Chesterfield, Darlington, Dillon, Florence, Marlboro, Marion**

145 E. Cheves Street  
Florence, SC 29506  
Phone: (843) 661-4830  
Fax: (843) 661-4859  
Nights / Weekends: (843) 601-7051

#### Region 5

##### **Bamberg, Calhoun, Orangeburg**

PO Box 1126  
1550 Carolina Avenue  
Orangeburg, SC 29116  
Phone: (803) 533-7199  
Fax: (803) 533-7134  
Nights / Weekends: (803) 516-5166

##### **Aiken, Allendale, Barnwell**

1680 Richland Avenue, W. Suite 40  
Aiken, SC 29801  
Phone: (803) 642-1618  
Fax: (803) 643-8386  
Nights / Weekends: 1-800-614-1519

#### Region 6

##### **Georgetown, Horry, Williamsburg**

1931 Industrial Park Road  
Conway, SC 29526-5482  
Phone: (843) 915-8804  
Fax: (843) 365-0085  
Nights / Weekends: (843) 381-6710

#### Region 7

##### **Berkeley, Charleston, Dorchester**

4050 Bridge View Drive, Suite 600  
N. Charleston, SC 29405  
Phone: (843) 953-0047  
Fax: (843) 953-0051  
Nights / Weekends: (843) 219-8470

#### Region 8

##### **Beaufort, Colleton, Hampton, Jasper**

219 S. Lemacks Street  
Walterboro, SC 29488  
Phone: (843) 525-5910  
Fax: (843) 549-6845  
Nights / Weekends: 1-843-441-1091

#### DHEC Bureau of Disease Control Division of Acute Disease Epidemiology

1751 Calhoun Street  
Box 101106  
Columbia, SC 29211  
Phone: (803) 898-0861  
Fax: (803) 898-0897  
Nights / Weekends: 1-888-847-0902



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<b>Health Advisory</b>	Provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action.
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