



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Region IV Public Health
Clark, Cowlitz, Skamania, Wahkiakum counties
and Cowlitz Tribe

Health Advisory

Please deliver a copy of the accompanying alert to each provider in your organization.

Thank you

Questions regarding this alert may be directed to the office of:

Alan Melnick, MD, MPH
Health Officer

Clark County Public Health
Cowlitz County Health Department
Skamania County Health Department
Wahkiakum County Department of Health and Human Services
(360) 397-8412

Please Distribute

Categories of Health Alert messages:

Health Alert: conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention.

Health Advisory: provides important information for specific incident for situation; may not require immediate action.

Health Update: provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; no immediate action necessary.



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HEALTH ADVISORY

July 25, 2012

TO: Physicians and other Healthcare Providers

FROM: Alan Melnick, MD, MPH, CPH, Health Officer

RE: Shigellosis investigation in Clark County

Clark County Public Health is investigating several cases of Shigellosis. The likely source of the infection is Kline Pond in north Vancouver. One of the cases attended a local daycare center while ill. Please consider Shigellosis in your differential diagnosis for adults or children with recent gastrointestinal illness, particularly bloody diarrhea, and especially if they had exposure to Kline Pond in the past month. We wish to remind healthcare providers that Shigellosis is a notifiable condition in Washington and that they should report cases to local health departments within 24 hours.

To report cases of Shigellosis or if you have any questions, please contact your local public health department:

- Clark County Public Health: (360) 397-8182.
- Cowlitz County Health and Human Services: (360) 414-5599
- Skamania County Community Health: (509) 427-3850
- Wahkiakum County Health and Human Services (360) 795-6207

Attached is a press release we are sending today. For additional information on Shigellosis, please see <http://www.cdc.gov/nczved/divisions/dfbmd/diseases/shigellosis>.

Thank you for your partnership.



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NEWS RELEASE

July 25, 2012

Contact: Alan Melnick, Clark County Health Officer
(360) 397-8415; alan.melnick@clark.wa.gov
Brian Potter, Vancouver-Clark Parks and Recreation
(360) 619-1123; brian.potter@ci.vancouver.wa.us

Klineline Pond off limits to swimmers due to Shigella bacteria *Salmon Creek Regional Park will remain open to the public*

Vancouver, WA-- Clark County Public Health is investigating several cases of *shigellois sonnei*, a bacteria that causes illness and is spread through fecal-oral transmission. The first case of shigellosis was reported July 17. Today, the investigation has identified Klineline Pond, north of Vancouver as a likely source of the infection. To prevent further spread of the bacteria, Klineline Pond is closed to swimming, effective today.

Public Health will monitor and test the pond for bacterial contamination throughout the next week and will advise the public when water contact is considered safe again. Swimmers are encouraged to visit the Vancouver-Clark Parks & Recreation Web site at www.cityofvancouver.us/parks-recreation/ for other swimming options.

Individuals who have been in contact with the water at Klineline Pond between June 27 and July 25 and who are experiencing symptoms, such as bloody diarrhea, fever, and cramping abdominal pain should call 1-800-203-7491 and see their healthcare provider.

What is Shigellosis?

Shigella sonnei is one of several strains of shigella, a bacteria that lives in human intestines. Shigellosis is characterized by acute onset of diarrhea, usually accompanied by moderate to high fever and cramping abdominal pain; sometimes with nausea and vomiting. Illness usually lasts three to 10 days. People can carry the bacteria and not have symptoms. Infections can be severe, particularly in young children and the elderly and may require hospitalization.

Individuals can transmit shigella as long as organisms are excreted in feces, typically one to four weeks after onset. It is important to wash hands thoroughly after changing diapers and coming into contact with fecal material to prevent the spread of shigella bacteria.

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