



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.



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

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

HEALTH ADVISORY

April 13, 2012

TO: Physicians and other Healthcare Providers

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

RE: Shigellosis investigation in Clark County

As Clark County Public Health investigates several cases of Shigellosis, we wish to remind healthcare providers that Shigellosis is a notifiable condition in Washington and should be reported to local health jurisdictions 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 letter we are sending today to parents of Camas High School students. For additional information on Shigellosis, please see <http://www.doh.wa.gov/EHSPHL/factsheet/Shigellosis.htm>.

Thank you for your partnership.



proud past, promising future

CLARK COUNTY
WASHINGTON

Public Health
1601 E. Fourth Plain Blvd.
P. O. Box 9825
Vancouver, WA 98666-8825
(360) 397-8000

DATE: April 13, 2012
TO: Parents of Camas High School Students
FROM: Clark County Public Health
RE: Shigella

Dear Parents,

Clark County Public Health is investigating several cases of Shigellosis, a bacterial illness that can cause fever, watery or bloody diarrhea, abdominal pain, fatigue and headache. Most persons who are infected will recover without treatment. However, some persons can develop severe complications, including kidney damage. Shigella can be spread from person to person through the fecal-oral route and can also be spread through drinking or eating contaminated food or beverages.

Persons who consumed food or drink from the Camas High School Student Store from Monday April 9th through Wednesday April 11th, may have been exposed to this bacteria. If gastrointestinal symptoms, especially diarrhea, develop, you should notify your health care provider and you should stay home from work and school until the diarrhea resolves.

If you become ill and work as a food handler, in healthcare, or child care, you should not work and you should notify Clark County Public Health (360-397-8182) of your illness immediately

You can spread the disease even if you do not have symptoms. Therefore, it is always important to follow the practices below to prevent the spread of illness:

- Wash hands thoroughly with warm, soapy water, rubbing hands together for at least 20 seconds before handling or serving food
- Wash hands thoroughly as above after using the toilet or changing a child's diaper.
- Carefully wash all produce, kitchen utensils, and countertops before and after cooking.
- Keep children who are not toilet trained and anyone with diarrhea out of swimming areas.
- Keep children home who have diarrhea.

If you have questions, please call our communicable disease staff at (360) 397-8182.

Thank you.