

## SHIGELLOSIS HEALTH ADVISORY

### September 13, 2024

#### Situational Update

Shigellosis cases reported to Sacramento County Public Health (SCPH) have been increasing over time,<sup>1</sup> especially in the last two years and among persons experiencing homeless (PEH). Among reported cases with available data, over 80% received treatment with the highest among hospitalized cases (96.6%) followed by those seen in the emergency department only (87.7%). A high percent (70.1%) of those that were not seen in either of these settings also received treatment.

The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) has also identified an increase in extremely drug-resistant (XDR) shigellosis cases in California over the last several years, with a sharp increase in the first five months of 2024 (12.0% compared to 6.8% in 2023) and higher among males aged 25-34 and men who have sex with men (MSM).<sup>2</sup> XDR *Shigella* are resistant to all commonly recommended empiric and alternative antibiotics, including azithromycin, ciprofloxacin, ceftriaxone, trimethoprim-sulfamethoxazole, and ampicillin. XDR *Shigella* infections pose a serious public health concern as these strains can spread antibiotic resistance genes to other enteric bacteria and treatment options are limited.

#### Actions Requested of Health Care Systems and Clinicians:

1. **Consider** shigellosis among patients experiencing acute diarrhea, especially among persons at higher risk: young children, MSM, PEH, international travelers, immunocompromised person, persons with HIV.
2. **Inquire** about relevant exposures and social history, including sexual activity, housing status, and international travel.
3. **Order** stool culture if patient requires antibiotic treatment, such as persons with severe disease or underlying medical conditions. **Most infections are self-limiting and persons with mild shigellosis may only need fluids and rest.**<sup>3</sup>
4. **Order antibiotic susceptibility testing (AST) to inform antibiotic treatment selection** for those with a positive culture for *Shigella* and require treatment.
5. **Consider** testing for sexually transmitted infections if indicated.
6. **Educate** patient about ways to prevent transmission as well as prevention measures.
7. **Report** shigellosis cases to SCPH electronically via CalREDIE Provider Portal or by completing a Confidential Morbidity Report (CMR) form and sending via secure fax to (916) 854-9709.

#### Resources:

1. SCPH: <https://dhs.saccounty.gov/PUB/Documents/Epidemiology/RT-FBIWBIFactSheet2023.pdf>
2. CDPH: <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/OPA/Pages/CAHAN/Rise-in-Extensively-Drug-Resistant-Shigella-Strains.aspx>
3. CDC: <https://www.cdc.gov/shigella/treatment/index.html>

Sincerely,



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Public Health Officer