



Marion County
OREGON

Health & Human Services

ALERT
COPY AND DISTRIBUTE TO
PHARMACIES AND PROVIDERS

To: Provider
Fax number:

From: Marion County Communicable Disease
Fax number: 503-566-2920

Date: **12/20/24**

Regarding: Ongoing Shigella Outbreak

Phone number for follow-up: 503-588-5621

Dear Community Partner,

Since June 7, 2024, Oregon Health Authority (OHA) has identified a rapidly expanding cluster of *Shigella sonnei* infections matching by whole-genome sequencing. All isolates that have been tested for antimicrobial resistance are resistant to ciprofloxacin and trimethoprim. Many cases report experiencing homelessness or having regular contact with people experiencing homelessness through work or social interactions.

Please consider testing for *Shigella* in any person experiencing homelessness who presents with diarrhea. Most cases of shigellosis can be managed with supportive care without antimicrobial therapy. However, severe cases (e.g., admitted to hospital or septic) may require therapy. Given the resistance seen in many isolates and the co-circulation of *Shigella* strains with diverse resistance profiles, please base your therapy on results of antimicrobial susceptibility testing. Clinical laboratories should promptly forward isolates and specimens testing positive for *Shigella* by PCR to Oregon State Public Health Lab for further analysis.

Additionally, please share information with patients about how to stop person-to-person transmission. Regular hand washing, avoidance of preparing or sharing food or drugs/paraphernalia with others and abstaining from sexual contact until two weeks after symptoms improve can reduce transmission of *Shigella*. Please obtain accurate patient contact information, phone number and/or address for public health interviewers, especially for unstably housed individuals who are likely to have *Shigella*.

For additional questions, please contact Marion County Health and Human Services Communicable Disease team at 503-588-5621.

