



**Marion County**  
OREGON

Health & Human Services

**ALERT**  
**COPY AND DISTRIBUTE TO**  
**PROVIDERS**

To: Marion County Providers  
Fax number: 503-566-2920

From: Marion County Health & Human Services  
Fax number: (503) 566-2920

Date: **12/7/2023**

Regarding: Shigella Cluster

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

Dear Providers,

The Oregon Health Authority has identified an ongoing cluster of *Shigella flexneri* 1b cases. There have been 20 cases so far, with most of the cases being in the Portland Metro area. All isolates that have been tested for antimicrobial resistance are resistant to azithromycin, trimethoprim-sulfamethoxazole and ceftriaxone. Many of the cases have reported experiencing houselessness or having regular contact with people experiencing houselessness through work or other social interactions.

Please consider testing for *Shigella* if people experiencing houselessness present with diarrhea. Most cases can be managed without antimicrobial therapy. Severe cases (admitted to hospital or septic) may require therapy. Please base therapy on results of antimicrobial susceptibility testing. *Shigella* is a notifiable condition in Oregon, with cases to be reported to the local public health department of patient's county of residence within one working day. Clinical laboratories should promptly forward isolates and specimens testing positive for *Shigella* by PCR to Oregon State Public Health Lab.

Please educate cases about how to prevent transmission. Hand washing; avoiding preparing or sharing food with others; avoiding swimming (and other recreational water activities) and sexual contact for at least 2 weeks after recovery can reduce transmission of *Shigella*.

If you have questions, please contact Marion County Public Health Communicable Disease Team at 503-588-5621.

**Resources:**

CDC *Shigella* information: <https://www.cdc.gov/shigella/>

OHA *Shigella* information:

<https://www.oregon.gov/oha/ph/diseasesconditions/diseasesaz/pages/shigellosis.aspx>

