

Increase in Extensively Drug-Resistant Shigellosis in the United States

Date: February 27, 2023

Public Health Message Type: Alert Advisory Update Information

Intended Audience: All public health partners Healthcare providers Infection preventionists
 Local health departments Schools/Childcare centers ACOs
 Animal health professionals Other:

Key Points:

- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has been monitoring an increase in extensively drug-resistant (XDR) *Shigella* infections.
- Shigellosis usually causes inflammatory diarrhea that can be bloody and may also lead to fever, abdominal cramping, and tenesmus. Although easily transmissible, most patients recover without treatment.
- XDR *Shigella* strains are resistant to all commonly recommended empiric and alternative antibiotics and can also spread antimicrobial resistance genes to other enteric bacteria.
- Currently CDC does not have recommendations for optimal antimicrobial treatment of XDR *Shigella* infections.

Action Items:

- The New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH) encourages healthcare providers to consider shigellosis in the differential diagnosis of acute diarrhea especially among patients at a higher risk for infection.
- Clinicians should order stool culture for patients who will require antimicrobial treatment and request reflex cultures on culture-independent diagnostic test (CIDT) if possible.
- Healthcare professionals should stay vigilant about suspect XDR *Shigella* infections and use antimicrobial susceptibility testing (AST) results to guide antimicrobial treatment selection.
- All cases, clusters and outbreaks should be reported to the Local Health Department where the facility is located; contact information is available at: localhealth.nj.gov
- Cases should be interviewed promptly using the [Shigellosis Case Report Worksheet](#) to obtain exposures and risk factors.
- Information gathered through case investigations should be entered into the DSQ (Sources of Infection and Risk Factors) section within CDRSS.

Contact Information:

- The Foodborne and Waterborne Illness team at nj.fb@doh.nj.gov or CDS at (609) 826-5964 during business hours.

References:

- <https://www.cdc.gov/shigella/index.html> (CDC)
- <https://www.cdc.gov/shigella/audience-medical-professionals.html> (Healthcare Professionals CDC)
- <https://www.cdc.gov/shigella/shigella-toolkit.html> (Prevention and Control Toolkit CDC)
- <https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/topics/shigellosis.shtml> (NJDOH)