
PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY
INCREASED ENTERIC DISEASE ACTIVITY IN THE UNITED STATES
MARCH 17, 2023

Increase in Extensively Drug Resistant (XDR) Shigellosis in the United States

Situation Summary

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has been monitoring an increase in extensively drug-resistant (XDR) *Shigella* infections (shigellosis) reported through national surveillance systems. In 2022, about 5% of *Shigella* infections reported to CDC were caused by XDR strains, compared with 0% in 2015. Clinicians treating patients infected with XDR strains have limited antimicrobial treatment options. *Shigella* bacteria are easily transmissible. XDR *Shigella* strains can spread antimicrobial resistance genes to other enteric bacteria. Given these potentially serious public health concerns, CDC asks healthcare professionals to be vigilant about suspecting and reporting cases of XDR *Shigella* infection to their local health department and educating patients and communities at increased risk about prevention and transmission.

CDC defines XDR *Shigella* bacteria as strains that are resistant to all commonly recommended empiric and alternative antibiotics — azithromycin, ciprofloxacin, ceftriaxone, trimethoprim-sulfamethoxazole (TMP-SMX), and ampicillin.

Recommendations for Healthcare Professionals

Consider shigellosis in the differential diagnosis of acute diarrhea, especially for patients at higher risk for *Shigella* infection, including:

- Young children
- MSM
- People experiencing homelessness
- International travelers
- Immunocompromised persons
- People living with HIV

If shigellosis is suspected:

- Ask the patient about relevant exposures and social history, including sexual activity, housing status, and international travel.
- When ordering diagnostic testing for *Shigella*, stool culture is preferred for patients who will require antimicrobial treatment.

- If a culture-independent diagnostic test (CIDT) is performed instead of culture and Shigella bacteria are detected, request on sample submission that the clinical laboratory perform reflex culture.
- If a culture is positive for Shigella, order antimicrobial susceptibility testing (AST) to inform antimicrobial selection.

Take a sexual history; test for other sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV, if indicated.

The CDC HAN is located at: <https://emergency.cdc.gov/han/2023/han00486.asp>

Outbreaks of Hepatitis Are Occurring Across the United States

Situation Summary

Since multiple outbreaks of hepatitis A (HAV) were identified in 2016, 37 states have reported the following as of March 3, 2023:

- Cases: 44,797
- Hospitalizations: 27,354
- Deaths: 421

[Six acute HAV infections have been confirmed in San Diego County residents](#), with symptom onsets beginning January 10, 2023, through February 6, 2023. Three of the cases are persons experiencing homeless (PEH). Given the concern in neighboring counties, it is important to be on the lookout.

In order to identify potential outbreaks, it is important that HAV positive blood be sent to the Riverside County Public Health lab who will forward it to the state lab for whole genome sequencing (WGS).

Although HAV can be transmitted through contaminated food and water, in the US, it is more commonly spread from person to person. Seven HAV cases were reported in Riverside County in 2022.

Recommendations for Health Professionals

- Consider HAV testing in symptomatic patients experiencing homelessness or who have a history of substance use.
- Offer HAV vaccination to appropriate patients.
- Susceptible people exposed to HAV should receive a dose of single-antigen HAV vaccine or [intramuscular \(IM\) immune globulin \(IG\) \(0.1 mL/kg\)](#), or both, as soon as possible within 2 weeks of last exposure. The efficacy of the combined HAV/Hepatitis B virus (HBV) vaccine for PEP has not been evaluated, so it is not recommended for PEP. Detailed information on PEP may be found on the [CDPH Hepatitis A Postexposure Prophylaxis Guidance Quick sheet](#) (updated April 2021).
- Educate patients about the importance of handwashing and other preventive measures for enteric diseases.

[Hepatitis A - Information & Guidelines | CDC](#)

[Hepatitis A Vaccine Information Statement | Immunize.org](#)

[Hepatitis A | CDPH](#)

Disease Reporting

Confirmed and suspect cases of Shigella and Hepatitis A are reportable to Public Health within one day of identification. Reports should be faxed to (951) 358-5446 or submitted via CalREDIE for participating health care facilities.