

HEALTH ALERT



Public Health
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TO: Physicians and other Health Care Providers

Please distribute a copy of this information to each provider in your organization.

Questions regarding this information may be directed to the office of:

Alan Melnick, MD, MPH, CPH
Health Officer
Clark County Public Health
Phone: 564.397.8412

Alert categories:

Health Alert: conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention.

Health Advisory: provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action.

Health Update: provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; no immediate action necessary.

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**HEALTH
ALERT**
July 20, 2018

Shigellosis investigation in Clark County; Battle Ground Lake investigated as possible source of infection



Summary

Clark County Public Health is investigating two lab-confirmed cases of shigellosis. One possible source of infection is Battle Ground Lake. Both cases had onset of illness on Monday, July 16 after swimming in the lake on Saturday, July 14.

Requested actions

Please consider shigellosis in your differential diagnosis for adults or children with recent gastrointestinal illness, particularly bloody diarrhea, and especially if they had exposure to Battle Ground Lake in the past week.

We wish to remind health care providers that shigellosis is a notifiable condition in Washington and that they should report cases to local health departments within 24 hours. To report cases of shigellosis, or if you have any questions, please contact Clark County Public Health Communicable Disease at 564.397.8182.

Additional information

Attached is a news release we are distributing today.

For additional information on shigellosis, please visit:
www.doh.wa.gov/ForPublicHealthandHealthcareProviders/NotifiableConditions/Shigellosis

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CLARK COUNTY WASHINGTON

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News Release

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July 20, 2018

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Public Health posts warnings at Battle Ground Lake for possible shigella bacteria

Vancouver, Wash. – Clark County Public Health is investigating two cases of shigellosis, a bacterial infection that causes illness spread through fecal-oral transmission. The cases were reported to Public Health today.

The investigation has identified Battle Ground Lake as a possible source of the infection. Public Health posted warning signs at the lake this afternoon to warn the public about potential risk of infection. The lake and Battle Ground Lake State Park remain open.

Public Health collected water samples from the lake today to test for bacterial contamination and will have test results Saturday, July 21. If the test results show high levels of bacteria in the water, Public Health will close the lake to swimmers. Public Health will collect water samples for testing again on Monday, July 23. Updates about the lake will be posted on the [Public Health website](#).

Individuals who had contact with the water at Battle Ground Lake between July 14 and today and who are experiencing symptoms, such as bloody diarrhea, fever and cramping abdominal pain, should contact their health care provider.

What is shigellosis?

Shigellosis is an infection caused by several strains of shigella, a type of bacteria that can live in human intestines. People can carry shigella bacteria and not have symptoms. Shigellosis is characterized by acute onset of diarrhea, usually accompanied by moderate to high fever and cramping abdominal pain. Symptoms may also include nausea and vomiting. Illness usually lasts three to 10 days. Infections can be severe, particularly in young children and the elderly and may require hospitalization.

Individuals can transmit shigella as long as organisms are excreted in feces, typically one to four weeks after symptoms begin. It is important to wash hands thoroughly after changing diapers and coming into contact with fecal material to prevent the spread of shigella bacteria.

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