

Attention:
Gay, Bisexual, Trans*, and Men who have Sex with Men
***Shigella* Health Advisory, April 17, 2015**

There is a nationwide increase in shigellosis, a highly contagious diarrheal disease caused by a group of bacteria called *Shigella*. Many of these infections are resistant to one of the main antibiotics used to treat *Shigella*. In King County, case counts are at twice the level that would be expected for this time of year. Over 75% of the reported cases in King County have occurred among males, the majority of whom have identified as men who have sex with men. Cases with resistant *Shigella* can still be treated with other antibiotics. Three recent cases required hospitalization. Several cases have reported spending time at local bathhouses and/or meeting sex partners online.

Actions requested:

- Be aware of signs and symptoms of shigellosis: (see factsheet)
 - Diarrhea
 - Stomach cramps
 - Fever
- Be aware that men who have sex with men are more likely than other adults to get infected with *Shigella* and have infections that are resistant to antibiotics
- Seek health care if you develop symptoms, especially if you are living with HIV. People living with HIV who get *Shigella* often get sicker and can develop a life threatening blood infection.
- Do not have sex with someone who recently had diarrhea and practice safe sex
- If you are ill, do not have sex until at least 7 days after symptoms have resolved.

For additional information see Sex and Shigellosis:

<http://www.kingcounty.gov/healthservices/health/communicable/diseases/shigellosis.aspx>