

Shigella | Prevention and Control



What is Shigella?

Shigellosis is a highly contagious diarrheal illness caused by a bacteria (germ) called *Shigella*, that causes diarrhea (sometimes bloody), fever, and stomach pain. *Shigella* is transmitted when they put something in their mouths that has come into contact with the stool (poop) of someone who is sick with shigellosis. This can occur by touching contaminated surfaces, caring for a sick person, eating contaminated food, drinking contaminated water, or sexual contact with someone who is sick or who has recently recovered from shigellosis. Contamination can occur when infected persons don't wash their hands properly after using the bathroom and then touching other objects or food items. *Shigella* is very contagious: just a small amount of germs can make someone sick.

Cleaning up feces

1. Use personal protective equipment (PPE) such as gloves, masks and gowns.
2. Block-off area immediately.
3. Clean up visible debris using disposable absorbent material (paper towels or other type of disposable cloths) and minimize aerosols.
4. Discard soiled items carefully in a plastic bag.
5. Thoroughly clean affected area.
6. Disinfect area and objects surrounding the contamination with disinfectant
7. Take off gloves, gown and mask, in that order, and discard before exiting contaminated clean-up area.
8. Place discarded PPE in a plastic bag.
9. Re-glove and transport bag to a trash container; do not allow the bag to touch any clothing.
10. Always wash your hands after handling any contaminated material, trash or waste

Proper disinfectant handling tips

- Use chemicals in well-ventilated areas.
- Avoid contact between incompatible chemicals.
- Prevent chemical contact with food during cleaning.
- Handle contaminated material as little as possible.
- Manage waste safely and dispose in a trash container

Public bathroom recommendations

1. Ensure soap is available for patrons to wash hands
2. Ensure toilet paper is present
3. Remove visible feces from bathroom as soon as possible to prevent further contamination
4. Ocean Blue is a City resource with experience cleaning areas such as public spaces and encampments.