



Health Department
& Home Health Agency

RENO COUNTY
209 West Second Ave.
Hutchinson, Kansas 67501-5232
(620) 694-2900
Fax (620) 694-2901
TDD (620) 694-2925

Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: December 15, 2009

**For more information contact: Judith A. Seltzer, RN, MS,
Director/Health Officer**

Six additional Cases of Shigellosis in Reno County as of December 15

Reno County Health Department has received a total of 11 confirmed cases of Shigellosis, and continues to follow up other reports of those with symptoms of the illness. Shigellosis is easily spread from one person to another usually by hands, food, or drinking water contaminated with stool.

Judy Seltzer, Health Department Director advises, "It is important for everyone to be alert to the following symptoms and take appropriate action."

Symptoms include:

- Mild to severe diarrhea-including an increase in number of stools per day.
- Fever, nausea, vomiting and stomach cramps.
- Stools may be watery or contain blood, mucus and infectious material.
 - Symptoms usually last for several days, but may last for weeks.
 - Some people have no symptoms, yet may spread the disease to others.

If you or your child exhibit these symptoms,

- Contact your medical provider as soon as possible.
- Stay home until 24 hours have passed since any symptoms.
- Practice frequent and thorough hand washing
- Wash hands with soap and warm water, before and after:
 - preparing and eating food and
 - after toileting and diapering
- The Health Department also encourages parents and providers to assist small children with hand washing

For more information, contact the Reno County Health Department at 620-694-2900.

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