



Health Department
& Home Health Agency

RENO COUNTY
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Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: December 21, 2009

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Additional Cases of Shigellosis in Reno County as of December 21

Reno County Health Department has received reports of a total of 16 confirmed cases of Shigellosis, and continues to follow up on other reports of those with symptoms of the illness. Shigellosis is **easily spread** from one person to another usually by lack of proper handwashing. Shigella bacteria is present in the stools of infected persons while they are sick and up to a week or two after they begin feeling better. Treatment with antibiotics can lessen the amount of time Shigella bacteria are present.

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 for possible testing and treatment
- Stay home until at least 24 hours have passed since you've experienced 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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