



NC DEPARTMENT OF
**HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES**

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Division of Public Health

DATE: February 28, 2023
TO: Local Health Directors and Communicable Disease Nurses
FROM: Carl Williams, DVM, DACVPM, State Public Health Veterinarian
William A. Glover II, PhD, D(ABMM), MT(ASCP), Public Health Laboratory
Assistant Director for Infectious Diseases
RE: Increase in Extensively Drug-Resistant Shigellosis in the United States

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recently issued a Health Advisory (HAN) regarding increases in extensively drug-resistant (XDR) *Shigella* infections (shigellosis) reported through national surveillance systems.

As a reminder, *Shigella* infections are reportable in North Carolina, and we encourage healthcare providers to report suspected or confirmed cases of *Shigella*. Additionally, we request submission of known or suspected XDR *Shigella* isolates to the North Carolina State Laboratory of Public Health (NCSLPH) to help facilitate ongoing antibiotic resistance surveillance within the state.

CDC defines XDR *Shigella* bacteria as strains that are resistant to all commonly recommended empiric and alternative antibiotics — azithromycin, ciprofloxacin, ceftriaxone, trimethoprim-sulfamethoxazole (TMP-SMX), and ampicillin.

Most patients recover from shigellosis without antimicrobial treatment. Supportive care and oral rehydration may be sufficient for many people with shigellosis. XDR *Shigella* has not been detected in North Carolina to date, highlighting the importance of awareness and vigilance in monitoring *Shigella* infections.

Healthcare providers treating XDR *Shigella* should consult with a specialist knowledgeable in treating antibiotic-resistant bacteria to determine the best treatment options.

Please see the CDC HAN (<https://emergency.cdc.gov/han/2023/han00486.asp>) for additional information and log into the CDC COCA call (https://emergency.cdc.gov/coca/calls/2023/callinfo_022823.asp) if possible.

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