



**Promoting a Safer and Healthier Community Since 1854**

## **Community Health Alert**

Since October, 2015, the number of Shigellosis cases confirmed positive has risen each week in in our community. The Winnebago County Health Department is asking for your help in stopping the spread of the infection by educating, cleaning, stocking handwashing supplies, supervising children when washing their hands, and advising sick individuals including employees to stay home.

Shigellosis is spread when infected individuals do not wash their hands thoroughly after using the toilet, and then go onto prepare food for others, touch objects that others touch and eventually someone will put the food or contaminated hands into their mouths. The infection occurs most frequently in small children, but we have also seen the infection in teens and adults.

**The number one method to prevent infection is to have people wash their hands at crucial times of the day: after using the toilet, before and after eating, before and after touching food, after touching objects that others have touched as well.**

Attached are several educational items that can be used develop and implement a plan in your organization to educate everyone about the importance of washing hands to prevent disease this winter. These items can be placed in washrooms, waiting areas with children and parents, and food service areas for everyone including your employees. Additional materials at the Centers for Disease Control website, [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov) under the topic of handwashing promotional materials.

Contact the Winnebago County Health Department if you have any further questions or would like assistance in developing a plan to educate your staff and families at 815-720-4274.

For more information, visit our website at: [www.wchd.org](http://www.wchd.org).

Like us: [facebook.com/Winnebago County Health Department](https://facebook.com/Winnebago County Health Department).

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Contact us at:

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401 Division Street, PO Box 4009

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Or by phone at 815-720-4000.