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For Immediate Release

Winnebago County Health Department continues to see numbers rise of confirmed Shigellosis cases in school aged population in Winnebago County

The Winnebago County Health Department (WCHD) is reporting an increase of cases of Shigellosis in our community bringing the new total to 29, cases since October 2015. The majority of these cases are isolated and have impacted in children in daycare and elementary schools. Shigellosis is a diarrheal disease caused by a group of bacteria called Shigella.

The Winnebago County Health Department continues to work closely with local healthcare partners, daycares, and elementary schools in Winnebago County. "Parents and caregivers need to be vigilant in monitoring handwashing in children and during toileting and diapering to prevent the spread," said Public Health Administrator, Dr. Sandra Martell.

Anyone with symptoms of diarrhea should contact their primary healthcare provider and stay home from work, school, or daycare until released by their provider. Shigella can be treated with antibiotics and supportive care, including fever management and fluids.

Common symptoms typically start 1 to 2 days after exposure and include:

- Diarrhea (sometimes bloody)
- Fever
- Vomiting
- Abdominal pain

Transmission of shigellosis can be greatly reduced using the following strategies:

- Carefully washing your hands with soap during key times:
 - After using the toilet
 - Before eating
 - After changing a diaper or helping to clean another person who has defecated (pooped).

For more information on Shigella, please call the Winnebago County Health Department at 815-720-4050. To learn more about shigellosis, visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: <http://www.cdc.gov/shigella>, or the Winnebago County Health Department at www.wchd.org.