

Announcement regarding **Shigella**:

The *Madison County Health Department* has asked that we communicate information regarding **Shigella** to the parents of our school district. The MCHD reports seeing diarrheal illness in our community. Some of this illness is due to a bacteria known as Shigella. The following is information to help decrease the spread of illness.

Key Points:

- \*Shigella is a very contagious bacteria and can be spread very easily from person to person
- \*The illness can be spread from a person who is infected and has not washed hands properly
- \*A person can spread the illness even if they do not have symptoms

**Signs and Symptoms:**

- \**Diarrhea (or bloody diarrhea)*
- \**Fever*
- \**Nausea*
- \**Vomiting*
- \**Abdominal Cramps*

Prevention Methods:

- \*Do not attend work or school if an individual is experiencing these symptoms
- \*Do not return to school or work until diarrhea and other symptoms have subsided for 24 hours
- \*Wash hands thoroughly before eating, when preparing food, after using the bathroom or changing a diaper, and anytime hands are visibly soiled

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Madison County Health Department at 618-692-8954, ext. 2 or your building school nurse.