



Communicable Disease Prevention and Control  
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## **EXPOSURE NOTICE**

Dear Parents:

On \_\_\_\_\_ your child may have been exposed to the communicable disease or condition that is listed below. The information provided does not replace talking with your healthcare provider if your child is ill. ***If your child has symptoms, please seek diagnosis and treatment from your healthcare provider.***

### **COMMUNICABLE DISEASE/CONDITION**

**SHIGELLA:** A bacteria that causes diarrhea. This illness may require restriction\* by the Public Health Department.

**What are the symptoms?** Diarrhea that may contain blood or mucus, fever, and/or stomach pain.

**How is it spread?** Eating or drinking contaminated food or water. Handling items contaminated with the feces of a person that has this illness.

**When do symptoms start?** 1 to 7 days after exposure to the bacteria.

**Do I need to keep my child home?** Yes.

**When can my child return to school/childcare?** Children under 5 years of age (and children over 5 years of age who wear diapers) will be restricted\* from group care. Children who were restricted can return only when cleared\* by the Public Health Department.

Children who are not restricted can return when they have been symptom free for at least 48 hours without the use of medication.

**\*Restriction and Clearance:** Restriction is defined as removing a child from group care until the child is no longer infectious. Clearance means that the child's feces are tested at the Public Health Laboratory to confirm that the bacteria is no longer present.

**GOOD HANDWASHING BEFORE PREPARING OR EATING FOOD AND AFTER USING THE TOILET OR CHANGING DIAPERS PREVENTS SPREAD OF THIS DISEASE**