

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.