

Shigellosis

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Shigellosis Latest News

Recently, more cases of shigellosis (bacillary dysentery) are being reported across Kerala.

About Shigellosis

- It is a highly **contagious bacterial diarrhoeal disease** caused by shigella.
- It can affect anyone, but children **under five are particularly susceptible**.
- It is one of the leading bacterial causes of diarrhoea worldwide.
- **Humans are the only natural reservoir** of the Shigella bacteria.
- The disease may be more severe in young children, older adults, immune-compromised individuals or malnourished persons.
- **Transmission**
 - The infection is **transmitted through direct, close contact with infected individuals**, through the faecal-oral route and through sexual contact.

- It can also spread through **contaminated food and water** or contact with faeces of an infected person.

- **Symptoms**

- The **most common symptoms is diarrhoea**, which can be bloody, contain mucus and last for a prolonged period of three days or more.
- Other symptoms include stomach cramps, vomiting, fever and feeling the need to pass stool even when the bowels are empty.

- **Treatment:** Medicines, including antibiotics may be prescribed for a serious infection.

Source: TH

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