



Courtesy of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

2019 medical illustration of drug-resistant *Shigella* sp. bacteria.

## Extensively drug-resistant *Shigella* infections on the rise: CDC

MMMM d, yyyy

Alyson Sulaski Wyckoff, Associate Editor

Article type: [News](#)

Topics: [Gastroenterology](#), [Infectious Diseases](#), [Public Health](#), [Sexually Transmitted Infections](#)

---

Health care providers should be vigilant about suspecting — and reporting — extensively drug-resistant (XDR) *Shigella* infections amid a recent increase, according to an [advisory](#) from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Shigellosis should be considered in the differential diagnosis of acute diarrhea. Young children are among the patients at higher risk.

Strains of XDR *Shigella* bacteria are resistant to all commonly recommended empiric and alternative antibiotics: azithromycin, ciprofloxacin, ceftriaxone, trimethoprim-sulfamethoxazole and ampicillin. Hence, the CDC does not have recommendations for optimal antimicrobial treatment of these infections.

In the U.S., the percentage of *Shigella* infections caused by XDR strains has increased from zero in 2015 to 5% in 2022. Since 2015, the CDC has received reports of 239 XDR *Shigella* isolates. Of 232 patients with available information, 5% were children.

While shigellosis has mostly affected young children (ages 1-4 years) in the U.S., there has been an increase in antimicrobial-resistant *Shigella* infections among adults, especially gay, bisexual and other men who have sex with men; people experiencing homelessness; international travelers; and those living with HIV.

It usually causes inflammatory diarrhea that can be bloody and may lead to fever, abdominal cramps and tenesmus. Infections generally are self-limiting.

Shigellosis is a nationally notifiable disease.

Consult the CDC [advisory](#) for additional guidance.

Copyright © 2023 American Academy of Pediatrics