

### ***Shigella flexnari* in the Downtown Eastside**

An outbreak of *Shigella flexnari* has been identified in residents of the Downtown Eastside, with more than 10 patients requiring hospitalization in the last two weeks. Cases may present with diarrhea, fever, nausea, cramps and tenesmus. *Shigella* can cause diarrhea that is bloody, mucoid, or watery. It is transmitted via the oral fecal route and can spread via food, any object touched by dirty hands, or sexual contact. The infectious dose is only 10-100 organisms so vigilant hand hygiene is necessary to prevent transmission.

**Please consider Shigellosis in the differential diagnosis** of patients presenting with gastroenteritis if they are homeless, under-housed, or part of the social network of the Downtown Eastside:

- Send stool culture for bacterial enteropathogens (Stool C+S).
- Consider treating patients empirically to reduce secondary transmission if your patient is unable to meaningfully isolate from others until their symptoms resolve.
- **If treating empirically, please use Azithromycin 500mg PO x 3 days.** For patients with a contraindication to Azithromycin, Cefixime 400mg PO daily for 5 days can be used. Recent cases have been resistant to Ampicillin, TMP/SMX, and Ciprofloxacin.

### **Two cases of Acute Hepatitis A recently identified on the North Shore**

We have recently confirmed two cases of Hepatitis A on the North Shore. At this time, no link between the cases has been identified and no travel or other food source has yet been implicated. **Please consider Hepatitis A in the differential diagnosis of any patients presenting with jaundice or other signs of acute hepatitis even in the absence of travel.** When ordering bloodwork please include Hepatitis A IgG and Hepatitis A IgM to your serology requisition as these are frequently not included in general Hepatitis panels.

You can reach a Medical Health Officer at 604.675.3900 toll free at 1.855.675.3900  
For public health emergencies after hours contact the Medical Health Officer on call at 604.527.4893

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