

# Clinical Information - Shigella

## Incubation period/onset time

1 to 3 days.

## Common clinical features

Bloody diarrhoea, abdominal pain and fever. *S. sonnei* generally mild other species more severe.

## Reservoir

Human gastrointestinal tract.

## Transmission

Person – person spread is common, faecal - oral from cases with diarrhoea, in households, and institutions, mainly those containing young children. Occasionally spread by food and water.

## Duration

Up to 2 weeks

## Control whilst you or a member of your family has symptoms

Take extra care with your hygiene and in particular wash hands thoroughly;

- after using the toilet
- before and after handling food especially foods which are not going to be cooked again, eg cooked ham
- hand washing of small children to be supervised in nurseries and schools
- before eating, feeding others and preparing foods for others
- after changing dirty nappies and soiled clothing

Whilst symptoms persist it is important to maintain high standards of hygiene.

## Exclusion

Until 48 hours after normal stool and symptom free

Last reviewed: 18 December 2008