

September 11, 2018

Dear Volunteer:

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Santa Clara Valley Water District (District), I want to express my deep appreciation for the time and dedication you have shown as a volunteer helping to keep our creeks and waterways free of trash, and all kinds of debris.

In the month of August, two cases of Shigella infection in the Taylor/Coleman/Guadalupe River Park area and at Roosevelt Park near Coyote Creek were reported. We want to inform you that, as of the end of August, the Santa Clara County Public Health Department declared the area free of Shigella-related incidents. The department noted that "as of August 27, there had been no new confirmed or suspected cases of Shigella among homeless individuals since August 6."

Infections, however, can easily be avoided by: carefully washing your hands with soap and water before preparing food and eating and after coming in contact with human feces; avoiding swallowing water from ponds, lakes, rivers, creeks, or untreated swimming pools; and for children, watching what children touch, particularly around untreated water and ensuring that their hands are washed with soap and water before they eat anything.

More information about Shigella can be found in the attached factsheet provided by the Santa Clara County Public Health Department.

Keeping our waterways clean from pollution is a priority to the District. However, your health and safety, when you are in a stream bed, is also our concern. In addition to issues about Shigella and other water borne pathogens, please keep in mind that when you volunteer along creek banks for cleanups, watch out for wildlife and avoid putting your hands where you can't see; watch out for poison oak; watch for possible human encampments and used needles and be aware of any other possible threats; watch your footing and avoid climbing steep banks and be careful on uneven ground. When in perceived danger, call 9-1-1 but when in doubt contact your site coordinator.

As a cleanup volunteer, you are generously donating your time to a greater good and we want to thank you for all that you do in partnering with us to ensure that the waterways in Santa Clara County remain clean.

Please remember that Coastal Cleanup Day is coming up on September 15, and we hope to see you out there.

Sincerely,



Richard P. Santos
Chair/Board of Directors

Attachment

cc: Board of Directors (7), N. Camacho, R. Callender, C. Kwok-Smith, V. Mariscal

ll:fd

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Shigella

Highly contagious diarrheal illness

SHIGELLA CAUSES DIARRHEA, FEVER, AND STOMACH PAIN

Shigella is a germ that spreads easily and causes:



- Diarrhea (may be bloody)
- Fever
- Stomach pain
- Dehydration (e.g., dry mouth, dark yellow urine, dizziness)



CONTACT A HEALTHCARE PROVIDER FOR TESTING & TREATMENT IF YOU THINK YOU MAY HAVE SHIGELLA.

HOW SHIGELLA SPREADS

Shigella germs can spread through tiny, invisible bits of poop (stool) that people touch and then accidentally ingest. These germs can also contaminate food and water. This can happen when someone has *Shigella* and:



Doesn't wash their hands after using the toilet.



Prepares food for others.



Has sex.



Swallows contaminated water.

HOW TO AVOID GETTING IT & SPREADING IT



Wash hands frequently with soap and water, especially after using the toilet, before cooking or eating, after changing diapers).



Don't prepare food for others while ill with diarrhea.



Avoid having sex (vaginal, anal, and oral) for at least one week (longer is better) after your partner recovers from diarrhea.



Avoid swallowing water from ponds, lakes, or untreated swimming pools.

WHO IS MOST AT RISK

- Men who have sex with men
- People with weakened immune systems from illness or medical treatment
- Travelers to developing countries
- People living homeless
- Young children