



## SHIGELLOSIS AWARENESS November 9, 2015

Plainview ISD has received notification from the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) Health Service Region 1 (HSR 1) that an illness called Shigellosis is occurring in the region. Shigellosis is a bacterial disease with primary symptoms of fever, diarrhea (often bloody diarrhea), abdominal cramping, nausea and vomiting. The disease is very infectious and is spread primarily by infected persons not washing their hands after going to the bathroom. **PLAINVIEW ISD DOES NOT CURRENTLY HAVE ANY PERSONS WITH THIS ILLNESS**, but we are taking actions that will hopefully prevent this illness from spreading to our district schools. These actions include:

- Strictly following Plainview ISD exclusion rules for children who exhibit symptoms of vomiting, diarrhea, abdominal cramps, and/or fever.
- Frequent disinfection of classroom surfaces and restroom facilities;
- Hand washing education in the classroom; and
- Reporting to the DSHS HSR 1 if we suspect a person may have Shigellosis.

Parents, actions you can take to assist in preventing the spread of this illness should it appear in our district, are:

- **Keep your child at home if he/she exhibits any symptoms of vomiting, diarrhea, abdominal cramps, and/or fever until these symptoms have resolved without use of medications. This action is required by State law;**
- Notify your child's school if your child is experiencing any of these symptoms;
- If your child is experiencing these symptoms, visit your family physician;
- Practice frequent and careful hand washing with warm water and soap after using the restroom, before preparing meals, and before eating.

If you have any questions about this notice or the actions being taken by Plainview ISD or the state health department, please contact your school office.