

Merlin disease code: 00490 Shigellosis

[Paper case report form](#)  
Merlin extended data optional

## Background

Shigellosis is an illness of variable severity commonly manifested by diarrhea, fever, nausea, cramps, and tenesmus. Asymptomatic infections may occur.

## Clinical criteria for case classification

One or more of the following: abdominal cramps, diarrhea, fever, vomiting.

## Laboratory criteria for case classification

### Confirmatory:

Isolation of *Shigella* from a clinical specimen.

### Presumptive:

Detection of *Shigella* or *Shigella*/EIEC\* in a clinical specimen using a culture-independent diagnostic test.

### Supportive:

One or more of the following:

- Detection of *Shigella* in a clinical specimen using non-isolate based sequencing,
- **Or** detection of antibodies to *Shigella* in a clinical specimen using a serologic test,
- **Or** a laboratory test with a methodology not previously mentioned.

\* Some multiplex polymerase chain reaction (PCR) tests report “*Shigella*/EIEC”. EIEC stands for enteroinvasive *Escherichia coli*.

## Epidemiological criteria for case classification

Either of the following:

- A person who is epidemiologically linked to a confirmed shigellosis case
- **Or** a person who is epidemiologically linked to a probable shigellosis case with laboratory criteria.

## Case classification

### Confirmed:

A person with confirmatory laboratory criteria.

### Probable:

Either of the following:

- A person with presumptive laboratory criteria
- **Or** a clinically compatible illness in a person with epidemiological criteria.

### Suspect:

A person with supportive laboratory criteria.

## Criteria to distinguish a new case from previous reports

A new case should be created when either:

- A positive laboratory result is received more than 90 days after the most recent positive laboratory result associated with a previously reported case in the same individual
- **Or** two or more different serotypes are identified in one or more specimens from the same individual (each serotype should be reported as a separate case).

## Comments

Asymptomatic infections and infections at sites other than the gastrointestinal tract with any laboratory criteria are considered cases and should be reported.