

ILLINOIS SUBWAY RESTAURANT LINKED TO SHIGELLA SONNEI OUTBREAK

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7 of 21 linked cases required hospitalization

DuPage County (IL) health officials have been investigating several cases of gastrointestinal illnesses among customers of a Lombard, IL Subway outlet. Ill patrons reported visiting the restaurant between February 24 and March 1.

The DuPage Health Department has received multiple reports of illness and at least 4 cases of shigellosis have been laboratory confirmed.

Reports have linked this outbreak to an ill sandwich maker who may have passed Shigella to diners through poor handwashing.

Restaurant remains closed

The restaurant has been closed pending further investigation, resulting in staff layoffs. The restaurant's owners and corporate representatives are cooperating with investigators.

Lawsuit filed

Ron and Sarah Bowers have filed a lawsuit on behalf of their two-year-old son, who began displaying symptoms of shigellosis (nausea, and abdominal cramping) on February 27.

According to the suit, the child's illness worsened throughout the next day and included vomiting and explosive diarrhea. On March 1 he visited his pediatrician and was diagnosed with severe dehydration and put on intravenous fluids. Upon returning home, he continued to suffer from nausea, abdominal cramps and diarrhea.



SHIGELLOISIS SYMPTOMS are nasty: vomiting, painful abdominal cramps, and explosive diarrhea with blood, pus or mucous in stool.



SHIGELLA is shed in the poop of infected individuals for up to two weeks after symptoms have ended. Handwashing is a risk control factor.



IN 2009 OVER 100 PEOPLE became ill with shigellosis linked to an Applebee's in Camillus, NY. Investigators pointed to poor handwashing and handling drink garnishes (e.g. lemons) a factor.