

Shigellosis outbreak associated with Bamboo Sushi in Seattle

Cases	4
Hospitalizations	1
Deaths	0
Status	Investigation is in progress
Location	Bamboo Sushi, 2675 NE University Village St, Seattle, WA 98105
Meal dates	October 15, 2023
Prior food safety inspections and current rating?	Good

Highlights, posted October 30, 2023

Summary

Public Health is investigating an outbreak of shigellosis associated with Bamboo Sushi in Seattle. Symptoms reported include diarrhea, bloody stools, cramps, body aches, nausea, fever, chills, and vomiting. We have not identified how *Shigella* was spread within the restaurant and the investigation is ongoing. There is no evidence of ongoing illness at the restaurant.

If you ate food from Bamboo Sushi during October 2023 and became ill after the meal, [please report your illness in a voluntary, confidential survey](#).

Illnesses

As of October 27, 2023, four people have reported becoming ill after eating food from Bamboo Sushi in Seattle. All four people ate at the restaurant on October 15, 2023, and started having symptoms October 16–19, 2023. An employee reported symptoms consistent with *Shigella* around October 18, 2023. It is likely the employee was exposed as part of the outbreak.

Public Health actions

Environmental Health Investigators visited the restaurant on October 27, 2023. They observed improper storage of wiping cloths and an improperly stocked handwashing facility. The restaurant completed a thorough cleaning and disinfection.

Investigators provided education about preventing the spread of gastrointestinal illness — including proper handwashing and preventing bare hand contact with ready-to-eat foods. Investigators also reviewed with restaurant management the requirement that people with a gastrointestinal illness who work in food handling should not work while ill, and those with diagnosed *Shigella* infections who work in food handling must be cleared by Public Health before returning to work to make sure they are no longer contagious.

Laboratory testing

Two of the four people who became ill tested positive for *Shigella*. Symptoms among those who did not get tested are suggestive of a *Shigella* infection.