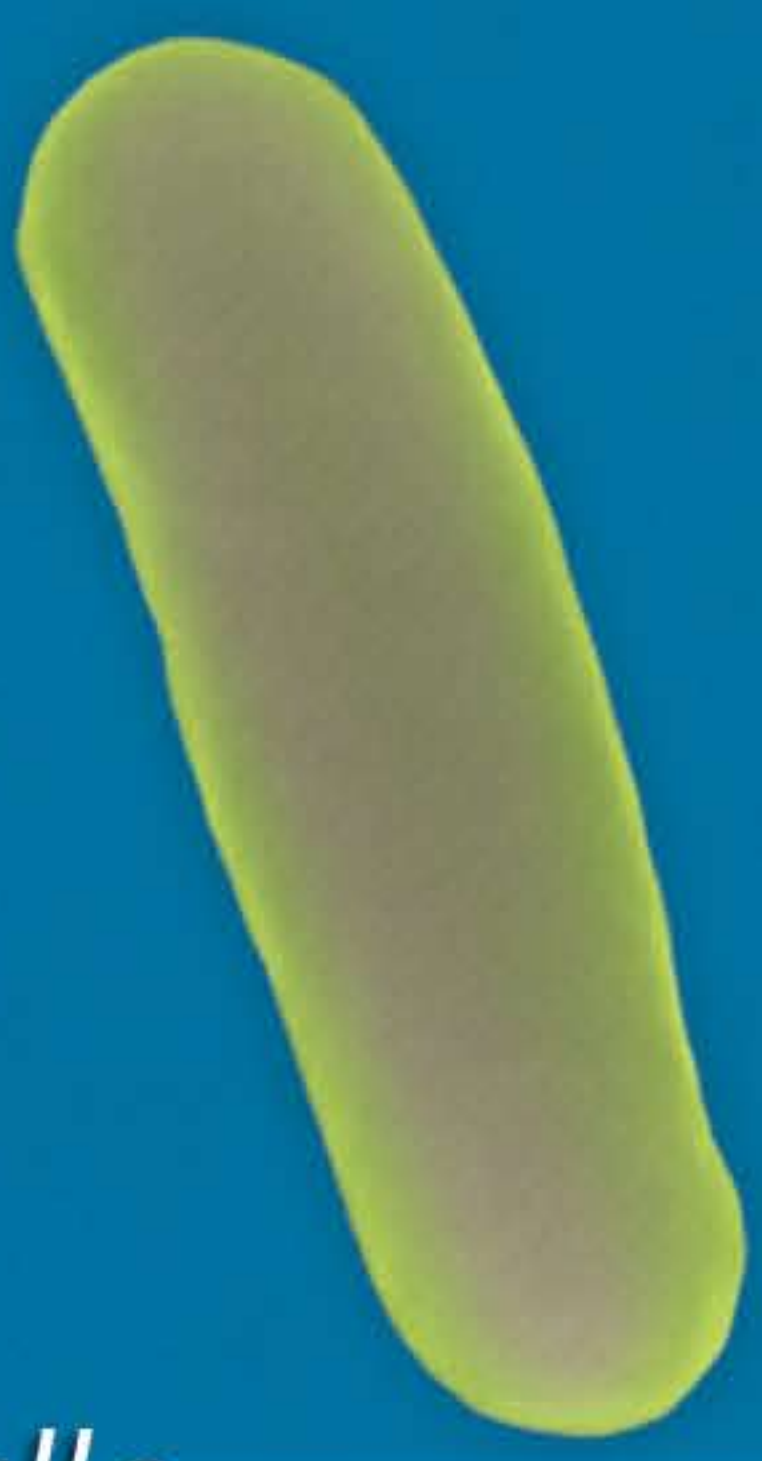
PulseNet

Series 3



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Shigella

Department of Health and Human Services

CDC & ATSDR

Shigella

Shigella causes about 400,000 cases of diarrhea per year in the United States. *Shigella* is a tiny rod-shaped bacterium. It would take 100 of them lined up end-to-end to equal the width of a strand of hair. These bacteria do not have the ability to move on their own. Instead, *Shigella* spreads to other people through contaminated salads, sandwiches, and water. It can also be spread from sick people. *Shigella* can be stopped if you wash your hands before eating. It is important to wash fruits and vegetables and drink water that has been treated.