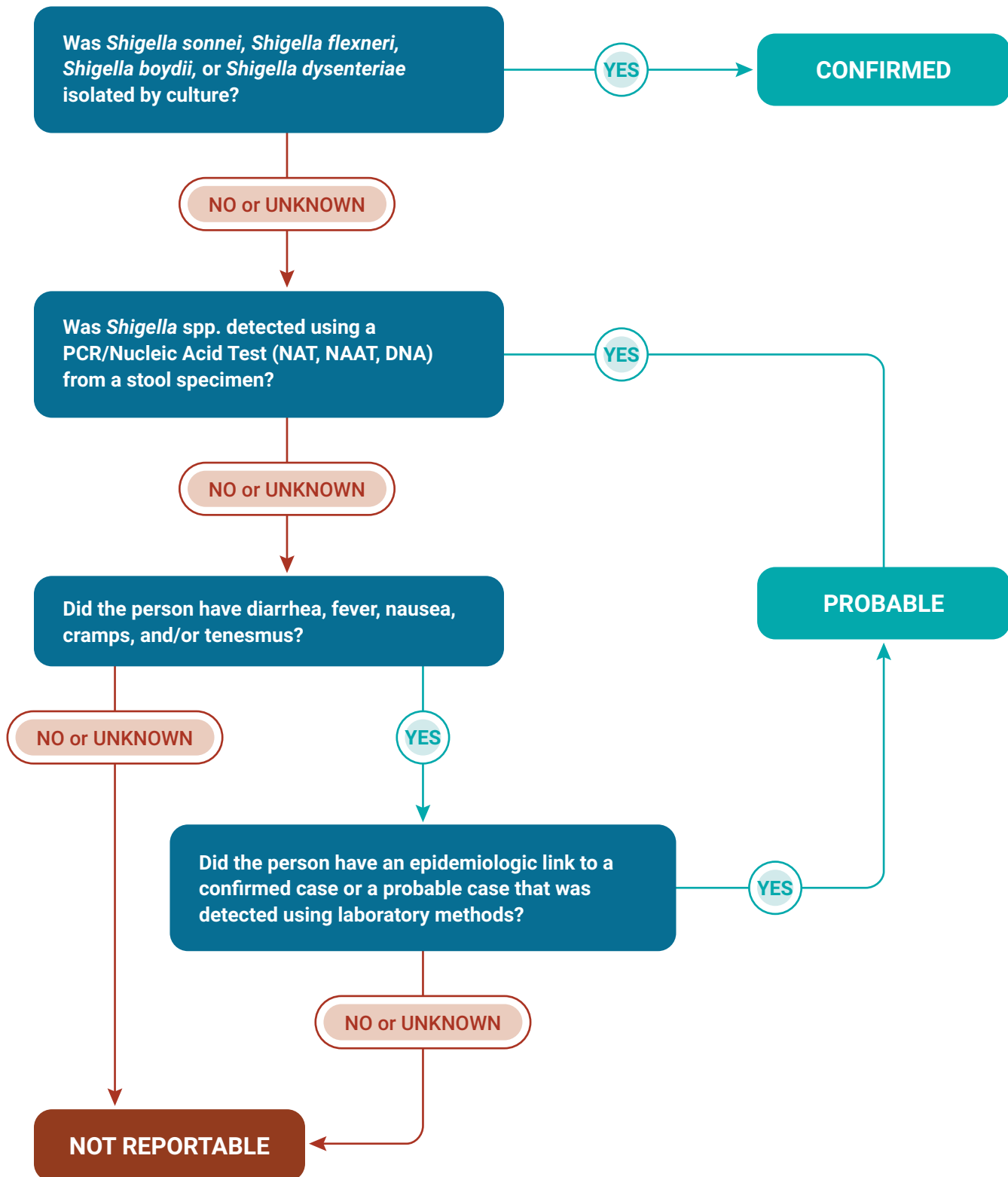


Algorithm for Case Classification: Shigellosis



Frequently Asked Questions and Answers

What laboratory methods are used for diagnosis?

- Culture
- Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR)
- If *Shigella* is detected in a sample other than stool, the diagnosis should be confirmed by a reference laboratory or Washington State Public Health Laboratories.

Note: Clinical laboratories must submit PCR+ stool and *Shigella* isolates to the Washington State Public Health Laboratories for culture and confirmation.

Are there any clues to determine if the test was a culture versus a PCR/Nucleic Acid test?

Clues indicating a culture was performed include: antibiotic sensitivities were done, the test description includes “isolate” or “isolated” or “organism identified,” an enumerated result such as “3+ *Shigella*” or specimen source is non-stool.

For PCR, the test description will often include “detected,” “DNA,” “NAT,” “NAAT” or “GI Panel.” Also, PCRs are currently only done on stool.

Does Washington State Public Health Laboratories do whole genome sequencing (WGS) on *Shigella* isolates?

By request only.

The result says positive for *Shigella*/EIEC. What is EIEC and why is it relevant?

Enteroinvasive *E. coli* (EIEC) is a diarrhea-causing organism that cross-reacts with some *Shigella* PCRs and results from these tests are reported out as “*Shigella* spp/EIEC detected”. Per CDC guidance, cases testing positive for *Shigella*/EIEC are considered shigellosis cases.

Are asymptomatic cases notifiable? What about extra-intestinal infections?

Yes — any laboratory-diagnosed case is notifiable. Since extra-intestinal infections are rare, any diagnosis from a non-stool sample should be confirmed by a reference laboratory or by the Washington State Public Health Laboratory.

What is an example of an epidemiologic link?

If a Confirmed or Probable case:

- Is a household member and/or child care contact
- Is another close contact or caregiver
- Is a sexual contact, particularly with oral-anal contact
- Has contact with fecally-contaminated inanimate objects (fomites)
- Shared consumption of potentially contaminated food
- Shared source of potentially contaminated drinking or recreational water

What should be reported?

Immediately report a suspected outbreak.

If an outbreak is suspected, also report symptomatic persons without laboratory results who shared the exposure with a Confirmed or Probable case.