

DIATHERIX adds two *Shigella* organisms to its Gastrointestinal Panel

In response to the requests of many physicians, two *Shigella* organisms have been added to the DIATHERIX Gastrointestinal Panel. This addition increases the value of this diagnostic tool through its enhanced ability to detect and differentiate between many serious gastrointestinal pathogens. For example, *Shigella* can produce symptoms very similar to *E. Coli*-O157, another organism included in the panel. It is also important to note that *Shigella* is very contagious because it only takes a small number of organisms to start an infection.

Specifically, the two organisms being added are *Shigella flexneri* and *Shigella sonnei*. Together they are responsible for 93% of the cases of *Shigella* infections in the U.S. With the addition of these two pathogens, the total number of pathogens detected by the Gastrointestinal Panel is now eleven, including: *Campylobacter jejuni*, *Clostridium difficile*, *Clostridium difficile* Toxin B gene, *Escherichia coli* strain O157, *Listeria monocytogenes*, *Salmonella enterica*, *Shigella flexneri*, *Shigella sonnei*, *Staphylococcus aureus*, *Vibrio cholerae*, and *Vibrio parahaemolyticus*.