



Salmonellosis

Your child may have been exposed to salmonellosis. Salmonellosis is a bacterial infection of the intestines.

If you think your child has salmonellosis:

- Tell your childcare provider or call the school.
- **Keep your child home from childcare** until 24 hours after diarrhea has stopped.
- **School aged children** do not need to stay home unless they are feeling unwell and/or have diarrhea and need to use the bathroom frequently.
- Anyone with salmonellosis should not go in lakes, pools, splash pads, water parks, or hot tubs until after diarrhea has stopped.
- For more information, call Hennepin County HSPHD-Epidemiology at 612-543-5230 or call your local health department.

Parent/Guardian information

Symptoms

Your child may have diarrhea, cramps, headache, vomiting, or fever. Illness may last up to 7 days.

If your child is infected, it may take 6 to 72 hours for symptoms to start.

Spread

- By eating food or beverages contaminated with stool.
- By touching hands, objects, or surfaces contaminated with stool.
- By handling chicks, ducklings, reptiles, amphibians, or other farm animals.

Contagious period

The illness can spread as long as *Salmonella* bacteria are in the stool. This could be for several weeks.

Call your health care provider

- If anyone in your home has symptoms. There is a medical test to detect the bacteria. Antibiotics are usually not recommended.
- If your child has diarrhea for three days or has bloody stools.
- If your child has prolonged vomiting or shows signs of dehydration.

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Prevention

- Wash hands after using the toilet or changing diapers. Wash hands before preparing food or eating. Your child may need help with handwashing.
- Chicks, ducklings, reptiles (pet turtles, iguanas, snakes), and amphibians can carry *Salmonella*. Wash hands after touching pets or farm animals.
- Clean and disinfect any objects that come in contact with stool. This includes toilets, potty chairs, sinks, toys, and diaper changing areas. Use a product that kills germs.
- Avoid swallowing water when in lakes, pools, splash pads, water parks, or hot tubs.
- Cook foods thoroughly and do not drink unpasteurized milk or unpasteurized juice. Always disinfect cooking surfaces, especially after handling or cutting raw meat.

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