

## Salmonellosis

Salmonellosis is an infection of the intestines that is commonly found in young children. The bacteria, *Salmonella* is often found in the digestive tract of a variety of animals (such as turtles, lizards, and birds) as well as humans. Most persons are believed to have acquired their infections from contaminated food.

**CAUSE:** *Salmonella* bacteria

**SYMPTOMS:** Diarrhea, cramps, nausea, tenderness, headache, fever, and sometimes vomiting. Children may show mild symptoms or they could be infected and show no symptoms.

**TRANSMISSION:** Salmonella leaves the body through the stool of an infected person/animal and enters another person when hands, food, or objects (such as toys) contaminated with stool, are placed in the mouth.

**INCUBATION:** It takes 6 to 72 hours, usually 12 to 36 hours, from the time a person is exposed until symptoms develop.

**CONTAGIOUS PERIOD:** As long as Salmonella is present in the stool. This may be several days to several months.



**EXCLUSION**

Until diarrhea has stopped. Children, who show Salmonella in their stools but so not have symptoms, do not need to be excluded. Exclude symptomatic food handling and direct care of infants.



**REPORTABLE**

**PROVIDER:** This disease is reportable to the health department. In Hall, Hamilton, or Merrick County call (308) 385-5175. Outside counties call your local or state health department

**SCHOOL/CHILD CARE FACILITY:** Report all confirmed cases or suspected cases.

**PARENTS/GUARDIANS:** Inform you child care provider if your child has this illness.

## Prevention & Control

1. Wash hands thoroughly with soap and warm running water for at least 20 seconds after using the toilet, changing diapers, and before preparing or eating food. Closely monitor hand washing of all children.

2. Make sure that children wash their hands after handling animals and cleaning their cages or pens.
3. Clean and disinfect contaminated areas (diapering area, toilets, potty-chairs) and sanitize toys at least daily and when soiled.



**1. Bleach Disinfectant**

- $\frac{1}{4}$  cup bleach in a gallon of water
- 1 tablespoon bleach in a quart of water

*PREPARE FRESH SOLUTION DAILY.*

OR

**2. Commercial disinfectant that is EPA approved**

*FOLLOW MANUFACTURER'S DIRECTIONS.*



**1. Bleach Sanitizer (Use non-scented)**

- 1 teaspoon bleach in 1 gallon water
- $\frac{1}{4}$  teaspoon bleach in 1 quart water

*USE TEST STRIP TO CHECK CONCENTRATION.*

*DO NOT RINSE, LET AIR DRY.*

*PREPARE FRESH SOLUTION DAILY.*

OR

**2. Commercial or food grade sanitizer that is EPA approved**

*FOLLOW MANUFACTURER'S DIRECTIONS.*

4. Diagnosis and Treatment: There is a lab test to detect Salmonella in the stool. Antibiotic treatment is not usually prescribed.

For more information, you or your physician may call the Central District Health Department at 385-5175, or your local health department.