



KALAMAZOO COUNTY GOVERNMENT

In the Pursuit of Extraordinary Governance...

FACT SHEET Salmonellosis

(*Salmonella*)

What is Salmonella?	<i>Salmonella</i> are bacteria that infect the digestive tract and may result in diarrhea, belly pain, and fever. There are many types of <i>Salmonella</i> . Salmonellosis is the name of illness caused by these types of bacteria.
How is it spread?	Infected people carry <i>Salmonella</i> in their intestines and feces. Infected people preparing or sharing food can spread it to others that eat the food. Some foods, like raw or under-cooked eggs or poultry (chicken), may be contaminated, but proper cooking will kill it. Pet turtles, snakes, iguanas, other reptiles, ducks, and chickens may also carry the organism.
What is the incubation period?	Symptoms usually appear six hours to three days after contact with the bacteria.
What are the early signs?	Symptoms of salmonellosis vary, but may include: loose or watery diarrhea, nausea, abdominal pain, headache and sometimes vomiting. Fever, if present, is usually low grade. The illness usually lasts 4-7 days.
What about contacts?	Encourage careful hand-washing (20-second scrub with warm, soapy water). Children with symptoms should be sent home.
How long is the person contagious?	Salmonellosis is contagious from when the person first gets sick until the bacteria are no longer in the stool, usually several days.
When is it OK to return to school/childcare?	Children with diarrhea should remain at home until the symptoms go away for <i>at least</i> two days.
Other important information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At the first sign of illness: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Keep your child at home 2. Call your child's doctor 3. Practice careful hand-washing 4. Do not share food; no common bowls of popcorn or candy, etc. • Good hygiene controls the spread of disease; practice careful hand-washing after using the bathroom and before and after eating or preparing food. • Children with diarrhea may become dehydrated easily; they need to drink more fluids.

This fact sheet is not intended to replace the advice of your physician. Parents should contact their healthcare provider if they have concerns regarding their child's health. If you have general questions, you may contact a Kalamazoo County nurse at 373-5022 or 373-5267.

HEALTH AND COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

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