

# Clinical Information - Salmonella

## Incubation period/onset time

12 to 72 hours.

## Common clinical features

Diarrhoea, vomiting and fever.

## Reservoir

Gastrointestinal tract of wild and domestic animals, birds (especially poultry), reptiles, amphibians (for example terrapins), and occasionally humans.

## Transmission

Predominantly from foodstuffs (most commonly red and white meats, raw eggs, milk, and dairy products) following contamination of cooked food by raw food or failing to achieve adequate cooking temperatures. Person to person spread from a case by close contact, usually during the acute diarrhoeal phase of the illness. Contact with infected animals.

## Duration

Up to 3 weeks, may be a carrier for up to 12 weeks or longer after symptoms have subsided.

## Control whilst you or a member of your family has symptoms

Take extra care with your hygiene and in particular wash hands thoroughly;

- after using the toilet
- before and after handling food especially foods which are not going to be cooked again, eg cooked ham
- after handling raw meat and raw vegetables, ie raw chicken
- before eating, feeding others and preparing foods for others
- after changing dirty nappies and soiled clothing

Whilst symptoms persist it is important to maintain high standards of hygiene.

## Exclusion

Until 48 hours after normal stool and symptom free

Last reviewed: 18 December 2008