

1. Identification

A bacterial disease commonly manifested by an acute inflammation of the colon, with sudden onset of headache, abdominal pain, diarrhoea, nausea and sometimes vomiting. Dehydration, especially among infants, may be severe. Fever is nearly always present.

2. Infectious Agents

Numerous serotypes of *Salmonella* are pathogenic for both animals and man (strains of human origin causing typhoid and paratyphoid fevers).

3. Reservoir

Domestic and wild animals, including poultry, swine, cattle, rodents and pets such as tortoises, turtles, chicks, dogs and cats; also man, ie patients and convalescent carriers and especially mild and unrecognised cases. Chronic carriers are rare.

4. Mode of Transmission

By ingestion of the organisms in food derived from infected food animals or contaminated by faeces of an infected animal or person. This includes raw (especially cracked) eggs and egg products; raw milk and raw milk products; meat and meat products; poultry; pet turtles and chicks; and unsterilised pharmaceuticals of animal origin.

Infection is also disseminated by animal feeds and fertilisers prepared from contaminated meat scraps, tankage, fish meal and bones. Faecal-oral transmission from person to person is important especially when diarrhoea is present; infants and stool-incontinent adults pose a greater risk of transmission than do asymptomatic carriers.

5. Incubation Period

Six to 72 hours, usually about 12-36 hours.

6. Period of Communicability

Throughout the course of infection. Extremely variable, usually several days to several weeks.

7. Preventative Measures

Thorough cooking of all foodstuffs derived from animal sources, particularly poultry (especially frozen), egg products and meat dishes. Avoid re-contamination within the kitchen after cooking is completed. Avoid consuming raw eggs, as in egg-nogs or home made ice cream, and using dirty or cracked eggs. All milk and egg products should be pasteurised.

Ref: "Control Communicable Diseases in Man, 1985"

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