**[Typhoid fever](http://www.webmd.com/a-to-z-guides/typhoid)**

[Typhoid fever](http://www.webmd.com/a-to-z-guides/typhoid) is an acute illness associated with fever caused by

the*[Salmonella](http://www.webmd.com/food-recipes/food-poisoning/salmonellosis-topic-overview) typhi* bacteria.

Mode of transmission: Typhoid fever is transmitted by contaminated food or water.

This means that S. typhi is passed in the feces and sometimes in the urine of infected people

Incubation period: 1-3 weeks.

Symptoms usually may be mild or severe. They include high fever, malaise, headache, constipation or diarrhoea, rose-coloured spots on the chest, and enlarged spleen and liver. Healthy carrier state may follow acute illness. About 3%-5% of people become carriers of the bacteria after the acute illness.

Typhoid fever is most common in parts of the world that have poor sanitation and limited access to clean water

Worldwide, children are thought to be most at risk of developing typhoid fever. This may be because their immune system is still developing. However, children with typhoid fever tend to have milder symptoms than adults.

Typhoid fever **vaccination**

Vaccination is recommended for anyone planning to travel to parts of the world where typhoid fever is widespread

However, as neither vaccine offers 100% protection.

The two most common **complications** in untreated typhoid fever are:

* internal bleeding in the digestive system
* splitting (perforation) of a section of the digestive system or bowel, which spreads the infection to nearby tissue
* bone and joint infection.
* Meningitis.