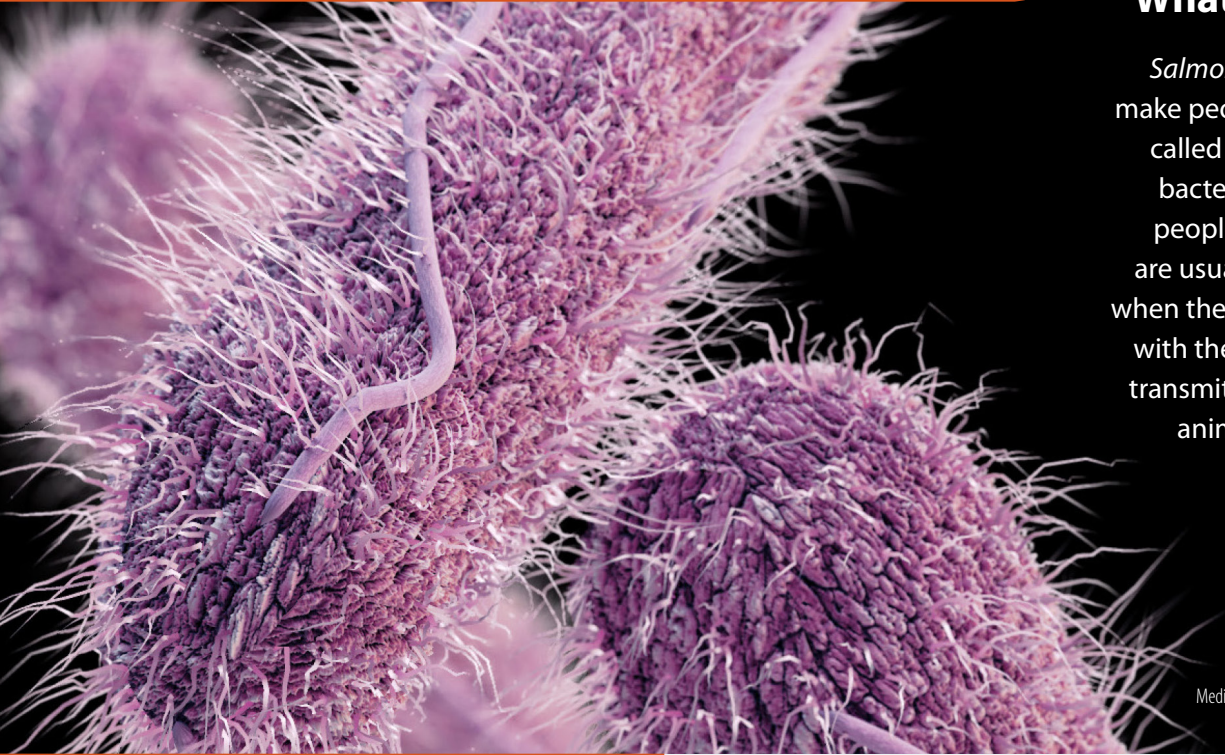


Salmonella



Medical illustration of *Salmonella* bacteria

What are *Salmonella*?

Salmonella are bacteria that can make people sick with an infection called salmonellosis. *Salmonella* bacteria live in the intestines of people and many animals. They are usually transmitted to people when they eat foods contaminated with the bacteria, but can also be transmitted through contact with animals or their environment.

How common is *Salmonella* infection?

CDC estimates that *Salmonella* causes approximately **1.2 million illnesses and 450 deaths** every year in the United States. *Salmonella* infection is most common in June, July, and August.

Who gets infected with *Salmonella*?

Anyone can become infected with *Salmonella*. Groups at **highest risk** for severe illness include:

- Children younger than 5 years
- Adults older than 65
- People with weakened immune systems, such as people with HIV, diabetes, or undergoing cancer treatment



What are the complications of *Salmonella* infection?

The illness usually lasts 4 to 7 days, and most people recover without antibiotic treatment. In some cases, diarrhea may be so severe that the person needs to be hospitalized. In rare cases, infection may spread from the intestines to the bloodstream, and then to other parts of the body. In these people, *Salmonella* can cause death unless the person is treated promptly with antibiotics. Some types of *Salmonella* are becoming **increasingly resistant to antibiotics**. Antibiotic resistance may be associated with increased risk of hospitalization, development of a bloodstream infection, or treatment failure.



Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
National Center for Emerging and Zoonotic Infectious Diseases

What are the symptoms of *Salmonella*?

Most people infected with *Salmonella* develop the following signs and symptoms **12 to 72 hours** after exposure to the bacteria:

- Diarrhea
- Fever (almost always present)
- Abdominal cramps

How are *Salmonella* infections linked to outbreaks?

A series of events occurs between the time a person is infected and the time public health officials can determine that the person is part of an outbreak. For *Salmonella*, it typically takes **two to four weeks** from the start of a person's illness to confirming they are part of an outbreak.

Not everyone who is infected with *Salmonella* seeks medical care, so those people are not counted as a case in an outbreak. We estimate that the number of people sick in an outbreak is likely much higher than the number identified in PulseNet.

Timeline for Reporting Cases of *Salmonella*

