



## TYPHOID FEVER

### WHAT IS TYPHOID FEVER?

TYPHOID FEVER IS A BACTERIAL INFECTION OF THE INTESTINES AND SOMETIMES THE BLOODSTREAM. THE GERM THAT CAUSES TYPHOID IS THE BACTERIA *Salmonella typhi*. IT IS AN UNCOMMON DISEASE.

### WHO GETS TYPHOID FEVER?

ANYONE CAN GET TYPHOID FEVER BUT IT IS USUALLY SEEN IN TRAVELERS VISITING COUNTRIES WHERE THE DISEASE IS COMMON.

### HOW IS THE GERM SPREAD?

TYPHOID GERMS ARE PASSED IN THE FECES AND SOMETIMES THE URINE OF INFECTED PEOPLE. THE GERMS ARE SPREAD BY EATING OR DRINKING WATER OR FOODS INFECTED BY FECES FROM THE SICK PERSON.

### WHAT ARE THE SYMPTOMS OF TYPHOID FEVER?

SYMPTOMS MAY BE MILD OR SEVERE AND MAY INCLUDE FEVER, HEADACHE, CONSTIPATION OR DIARRHEA, ROSE-COLORED SPOTS ON THE BODY, AND AN ENLARGED SPLEEN AND LIVER.

### HOW SOON DO SYMPTOMS APPEAR?

SYMPTOMS GENERALLY APPEAR ONE TO THREE WEEKS AFTER INFECTION.

### FOR HOW LONG CAN AN INFECTED PERSON CARRY THE TYPHOID GERM?

A PERSON CAN CARRY THE GERM FROM A NUMBER OF DAYS TO YEARS. ONLY ABOUT 3 PERCENT OF CASES GO ON TO BECOME LIFELONG CARRIERS OF THE GERM AND THIS USUALLY HAPPENS MORE IN ADULTS THAN IN CHILDREN.

### HOW IS TYPHOID TREATED?

SPECIFIC MEDICATIONS ARE USED TO TREAT TYPHOID.

### SHOULD INFECTED PEOPLE BE ISOLATED?

MOST INFECTED PEOPLE MAY RETURN TO WORK OR SCHOOL WHEN THEY HAVE RECOVERED, MAKING SURE TO CAREFULLY WASH HANDS AFTER TOILET VISITS. CHILDREN IN DAY CARE, FOOD HANDLERS, AND HEALTH CARE WORKERS NEED TO HAVE HEALTH DEPARTMENT APPROVAL TO RETURN TO THEIR ACTIVITIES.

### IS THERE A VACCINE FOR TYPHOID FEVER?

A VACCINE IS AVAILABLE BUT IS USUALLY GIVEN TO PEOPLE TRAVELING TO COUNTRIES WHERE THE DISEASE IS COMMON. PAYING ATTENTION TO FOOD AND WATER WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS WHILE TRAVELING TO SUCH COUNTRIES IS THE MOST EFFECTIVE PREVENTIVE METHOD.