

Your child may have been exposed to:

## Salmonellosis

Salmonellosis is a bacterial infection of the intestines.

If you think your child has salmonellosis, tell your childcare provider or call the school.

Keep your child home from **childcare** until 24 hours after diarrhea has stopped.

**School aged children** do not need to stay home, unless they are feeling unwell and/or have diarrhea and need use the bathroom frequently.

Anyone with salmonellosis should not go in lakes, pools, splash pads, water parks, or hot tubs until after diarrhea has stopped.

For more information, call Dakota County Public Health Department at 952-891-7500.

### Symptoms

Your child may have diarrhea, cramps, headache, vomiting, or fever. Illness may last up to 7 days.

If your child is infected, it may take 6 to 72 hours for symptoms to start.

### Spread

- By eating food or beverages contaminated with stool.
- By touching contaminated hands, objects, or surfaces contaminated with stool.
- By handling chicks, ducklings, reptiles, and amphibians, or other farm animals.

### Contagious period

The illness can spread as long as *Salmonella* bacteria are in the stool. This could be for several weeks.

### Call your health care provider

- If anyone in your home has symptoms. There is a medical test to detect the bacteria. Antibiotics are usually not recommended.

### Prevention

- Wash hands after using the toilet or changing diapers. Wash hands before preparing food or eating. Your child may need help with handwashing.
- Chicks, ducklings, reptiles (pet turtles, iguanas, snakes), and amphibians can carry *Salmonella*. Wash hands after touching pets or farm animals.
- Clean and disinfect any objects that come in contact with stool. This includes toilets, potty chairs, sinks, toys, and diaper changing areas. Use a product that kills germs.
- Avoid swallowing water when in lakes, pools, splash pads, water parks, or hot tubs.
- Cook foods thoroughly and do not drink unpasteurized milk or unpasteurized juice. Always disinfect cooking surfaces, especially after handling or cutting raw meat.

For more information, call Dakota County Public Health Department at 952-891-7500.

[www.dakotacounty.us](http://www.dakotacounty.us)