

# Typhoid Fever

## Typhoid Fever

Typhoid fever, also known as Salmonella typhi or commonly just typhoid, is a common worldwide illness, transmitted by the ingestion of food or water contaminated with the feces of an infected person. It is caused by the bacterium Salmonella typhi.

The bacterium grows best at normal human body temperature<sup>1</sup>.

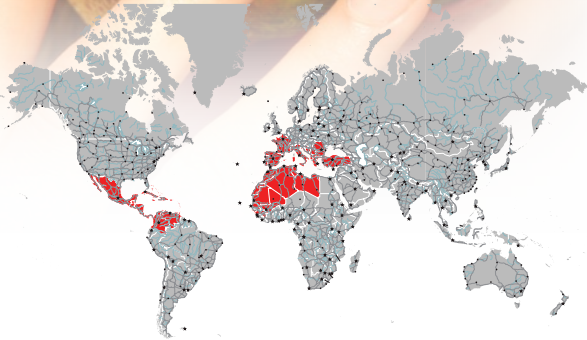
Typhoid fever is an infection caused by a bacteria found in contaminated food or water. The disease is commonly associated with eating foods prepared in unsanitary conditions; and with eating uncooked foods or drinking untreated water in areas where sewage is not disposed of safely<sup>2</sup>. As such, the impact of this disease falls sharply with the application of modern sanitation techniques<sup>3</sup>.

Salmonella Typhi lives only in humans. Persons with typhoid fever carry the bacteria in their bloodstream and intestinal tract. In addition, a small number of persons, called carriers, recover from typhoid fever but continue to carry the bacteria. Both ill persons and carriers shed S. Typhi in their feces (stool)<sup>4</sup>. Furthermore, you can get typhoid fever if you eat food or drink beverages that have been

handled by a person who is shedding S. Typhi or if contaminated sewage comes in contact with the water you use for drinking or washing food. Therefore, typhoid fever is more common in areas of the world where hand washing is less frequent and water is likely to be contaminated with sewage<sup>5</sup>. Once S. Typhi bacteria are eaten or drunk, they multiply and spread into the bloodstream<sup>6</sup>. Typhoid fever is characterized by a slowly progressive fever as high as 40 °C (104 °F), profuse sweating, gastroenteritis, and non-bloody diarrhea. Less commonly, a rash of flat, rose-colored spots may appear<sup>7</sup>.

Classically, the course of untreated typhoid fever is divided into four individual stages, each lasting approximately one week. In the first week, there is a slowly rising temperature with relative malaise, headache and cough. A bloody nose (epistaxis) is seen in a quarter of cases and abdominal pain is also possible. There is leucopenia: a decrease in the number of circulating white blood cells, with eosinopenia and relative lymphocytosis, a positive diazo reaction, and blood cultures are positive for Salmonella typhi or paratyphi<sup>8</sup>.

For doctors, the classic Widal test is negative in the first week<sup>9</sup>.



### World Map

The map shows where Typhoid Fever can be contracted.

Visit [www.casmedic.com](http://www.casmedic.com) to learn more.

### Types of vaccines

There are 2 vaccines that offer protection against Typhoid Fever. The Typhoid vaccine is very effective but does not last as long as other vaccines (such as Hepatitis A and B).

#### Vivotif

Vivotif is marketed by Berna Swiss. It comprises of 4 capsules to be taken every other day for one week. These capsules are ingested orally and are a great option for those who are afraid of needles. This vaccine provides a 7-year protection.

#### Typhim

Typhim is marketed by Sanofi Pasteur. This vaccine requires only one dose and offers a 3-year protection against the disease.

#### Typherix

Typherix is marketed by GlaxoSmithKline. This vaccine requires only one dose and offers a 3-year protection against the disease.

### Combination vaccines

#### Vivaxim

Sanofi Pasteur markets the vaccine Vivaxim, which protects against Hepatitis A and Typhoid Fever. For more information on Hepatitis A, click here [www.hepatites.ca](http://www.hepatites.ca)

1 [wikipedia.org/wiki/Typhoid\\_fever](http://wikipedia.org/wiki/Typhoid_fever)  
2 [phac-aspc.gc.ca/tmp-pmv/info/tf\\_ft-eng.php](http://phac-aspc.gc.ca/tmp-pmv/info/tf_ft-eng.php)  
3 [wikipedia.org/wiki/Typhoid\\_fever](http://wikipedia.org/wiki/Typhoid_fever)  
4 [cdc.gov/ncidod/dbmd/diseaseinfo/typhoidfever\\_g.htm#how](http://cdc.gov/ncidod/dbmd/diseaseinfo/typhoidfever_g.htm#how)  
5 [cdc.gov/ncidod/dbmd/diseaseinfo/typhoidfever\\_g.htm#how](http://cdc.gov/ncidod/dbmd/diseaseinfo/typhoidfever_g.htm#how)

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This information is provided to you free of charge by Cas Medic healthcare professionals. If you would like more information on vaccine services for Typhoid Fever, do not hesitate to contact us. If you suspect you may have been exposed, be sure to contact your doctor. As a general precaution, if you have any doubts about your state of health always speak to a doctor.