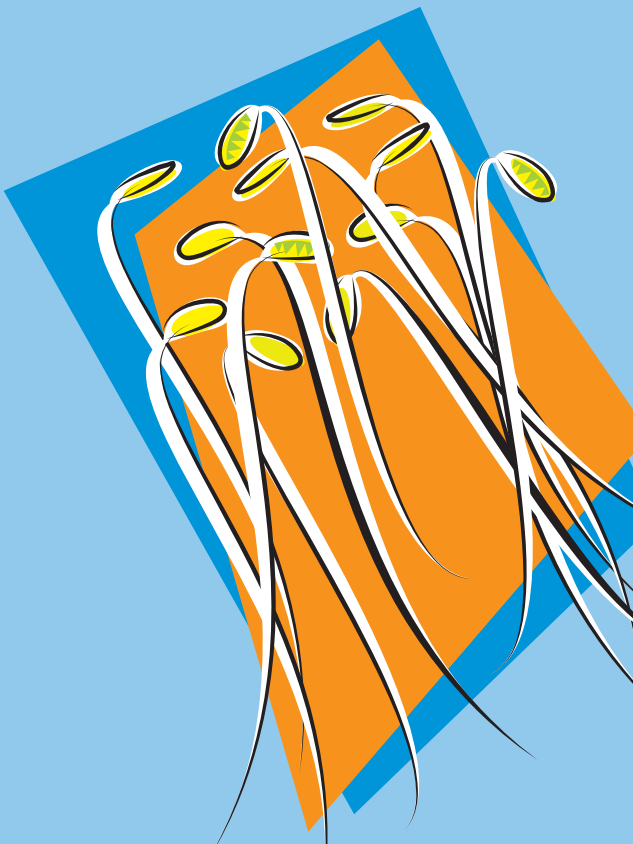




Salmonella

food safety facts



Preventing foodborne illness

What is foodborne illness?

Food contaminated by bacteria, viruses and parasites can make you sick. Many people have had foodborne illness and not even known it. It's sometimes called food poisoning, and it can feel like the flu. Symptoms may include the following:

- stomach cramps
- nausea
- vomiting
- diarrhea
- fever

Symptoms can start soon after eating contaminated food, but they can hit up to a month or more later. For some people, especially young children, the elderly, pregnant women and people with weakened immune systems, foodborne illness can be very dangerous.

Every year in Canada about 10,000 cases of foodborne illnesses are reported, but food safety experts believe that an estimated two million people become ill without knowing or reporting it. Each year, about 30 cases are fatal.

Most cases of foodborne illness can be prevented by using safe food handling practices and using a food thermometer to check that your food is cooked to a safe internal temperature!

What are *Salmonella* and salmonellosis?

Salmonella bacteria are found naturally in the intestines of animals, especially poultry and swine. The bacteria can also be found in the environment. People who eat food contaminated by *Salmonella* can become ill with salmonellosis.



What are the symptoms of salmonellosis infection?

Like other foodborne illnesses, the symptoms of salmonellosis can feel like the flu. Symptoms usually appear 12 to 72 hours after eating contaminated food and usually lasts up to seven days. Or, you may experience chronic symptoms, such as reactive arthritis three to four weeks later. Others infected with the bacteria may not get sick or show symptoms, but they can carry the bacteria, and spread the infection to others.

How does the bacteria spread?

Salmonellosis can be spread from person-to-person. Both animals and people infected with the bacteria can be carriers. Therefore, proper hygiene, safe food handling and preparation practices are key to preventing foodborne illness. If you think you are infected with *Salmonella* or any other gastrointestinal illness, do not prepare food for other people unless you wear disposable gloves and follow safe food handling procedures. It's a good idea to keep pets away from food storage and preparation areas. After handling pet treats, pet food and pet toys or after playing with, or cleaning up after your pet, it is essential to wash your hands thoroughly with soap and warm water.

Where has *Salmonella* been found?

Food can become contaminated with *Salmonella* during the slaughter and processing of an animal, when food is handled by a person infected with *Salmonella* or from cross-contamination because of unsanitary food handling practices. The following listed below have been responsible for foodborne illnesses:

- raw and undercooked meat (especially poultry)
- raw fruits and vegetables (especially sprouts and cantaloupes) and their juices, e.g. apple or orange juice
- raw or undercooked eggs
- **unpasteurized** dairy products, like raw milk and raw milk cheeses
- pet treats

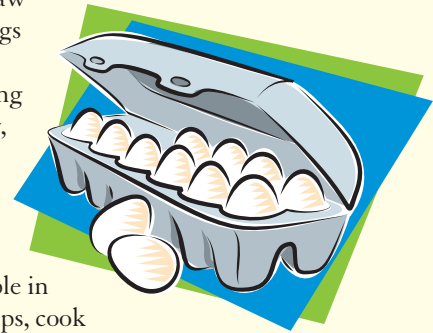
Will cooking destroy the bacteria?

Like many other harmful bacteria that could be in our food, *Salmonella* are destroyed when food is cooked to a safe internal temperature. Use a food thermometer to measure the internal temperature of your food. See the chart below.

FOODSAFE TIP: Cooking a chicken? A turkey? For maximum safety, food safety experts recommend cooking the stuffing in a separate dish. Why? It takes longer for the stuffing and the meat to reach a safe internal temperature, so why not un-stuff and save time? Stuffing and meat must each reach separate safe internal temperatures. See table.

Is it safe to eat raw or lightly cooked eggs?

Foods made from raw or lightly cooked eggs can be harmful, particularly for young children, the elderly, pregnant women and people with weakened immune systems. When serving eggs to people in these high risk groups, cook them thoroughly. See table.



FOODSAFE TIP: Try using pasteurized egg products when preparing food that traditionally contain raw eggs, such as eggnog, mayonnaise, salad dressing, ice cream and mousses. Pasteurization destroys harmful bacteria.

**Use a food thermometer
to measure the internal
temperature of your food.**

Defeating *Salmonella*: A 4-Point Plan

1. Get off to a CLEAN start!

- Handwashing is one of the best ways to prevent the spread of foodborne illness. Do you wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and warm water before and after handling food? Wash again when you switch from one food to another.
- Are your countertops and utensils clean and sanitized? Sanitizing reduces bacteria and can prevent foodborne illness.

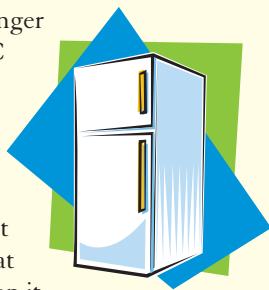
BLEACH SANITIZER

- Combine 5 mL (1 tsp) of bleach with 750 mL (3 cups) of water in a labelled spray bottle.
- After cleaning, spray sanitizer on the surface/utensil and let stand briefly.
- Rinse with lots of clean water, and air dry (or use clean towels).

FOODSAFE TIP: Because raw fruits and vegetables can be contaminated with bacteria, viruses and parasites, wash them thoroughly with clean, safe running water before you prepare and eat them. Use a brush to scrub produce with firm or rough surfaces, such as oranges, cantaloupes, potatoes and carrots.

2. CHILL your food and stop bacteria cold!

- Bacteria can grow in the danger zone between 4°C and 60°C (40°F to 140°F). Keep cold food cold at or below 4°C (40°F).
- Refrigeration at or below 4°C (40°F) slows down most bacterial growth. Freezing at or below -18°C (0°F) can stop it completely. (But remember: chilling won't kill bacteria. Only proper cooking will do that!)



FOODSAFE TIP: Keep your eggs cold! Store them in their original carton (so you can easily check the “best before” date) and place them in the coldest section of the fridge, usually near the back. Only buy clean and uncracked eggs.

WHEN IS MY FOOD READY TO EAT?

Food

Temperature

fully cooked and ready-to-eat meats (e.g. ham, roast)	You can eat it cold or you can heat it.
beef and veal steaks and roasts	63°C (145°F) medium-rare 71°C (160°F) medium 77°C (170°F) well done
pork chops, ribs, roasts; ground beef, ground pork and ground veal, including sausages made with ground beef/pork/veal	71°C (160°F)
stuffing and casseroles, hot dogs, leftovers, egg dishes; ground chicken and ground turkey, including sausages made with ground chicken/turkey	74°C (165°F)
chicken and turkey breasts, legs, thighs and wings; chicken and turkey, whole bird	85°C (185°F)



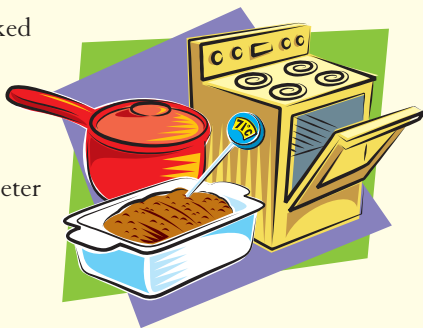
3. SEPARATE! Don't cross-contaminate!

- Bacteria can be carried in raw meat juices. Place raw meat, poultry and seafood in containers on the bottom shelf of the refrigerator. Use containers that are large enough to prevent raw juices from dripping onto other food or touching other food. Platters, utensils and cutting boards used for raw meat can carry bacteria, too. Use clean ones for cooked food!
- Keep raw food away from other food while shopping, storing and preparing foods.

FOODSAFE TIP: Platters, utensils and cutting boards used for raw meat can carry bacteria, too. Use clean ones for cooked and other ready-to-eat food!

4. COOK safely!

- Have you cooked your food to a safe internal temperature? Use a digital food thermometer to check the temperature of your food. See table.
- Bacteria can grow quickly in the danger zone between 4°C and 60°C (40°F to 140°F), so keep hot foods at or above 60°C (140°F).



FOODSAFE TIP: The only way to be sure that your food is cooked properly is to use a food thermometer to check.

Safeguarding Canada's Food Supply

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) is the Government of Canada's key science-based regulator for food safety,* animal health and plant protection. At the CFIA, the safety of Canada's food supply is central to everything we do.

** in partnership with Health Canada*

For more information on food safety, visit the CFIA Web site at

www.inspection.gc.ca

You can also find food safety information on the Canadian Partnership for Consumer Food Safety Education Web site at

www.canfightbac.org

Canadian Food Inspection Agency
Public Affairs
59 Camelot Drive
Ottawa, ON K1A 0Y9
1 800 442-2342

Keep raw food away from other foods while shopping, storing and preparing foods.