Salmonellosis

SMALL FLOCKS COLLABORATIVE

Salmonella is a type of bacteria that can make people sick. Salmonellosis is the illness caused by the bacteria *Salmonella*. Birds can carry and shed *Salmonella* without appearing sick. People get infected by ingesting the bacteria through handling or kissing birds, touching contaminated surfaces, eating undercooked meat or eggs from infected birds, or eating food contaminated during preparation.

Protect Yourself and Your Flock

1. Wash your hands

- Wash your hands after handling birds, eggs, or meat.
- Do not eat or drink while working with your birds.
- Don't kiss or snuggle birds.

2. Have dedicated footwear

- Salmonella can spread easily on shoes.
- Wear dedicated flock shoes.
- Never wear flock shoes inside, especially around children.

3. Prevent and control pests

- Rodents and insects spread *Salmonella*.
- Secure the coop to keep pests out.

4. Don't bring birds inside

- Don't wash birds in your house, especially the kitchen.
- Don't keep birds or poultry equipment inside your home.

5. Handle eggs safely

- Collect daily. Discard any eggs found on the floor.
- Dry-brush to clean them.
- If rinsing, use water at least 20°F warmer than the egg. Never soak eggs.
- Dry right away and refrigerate.

6. Cook eggs and meat

- Undercooked poultry or eggs can cause illness.
- Cook poultry to 165°F.
- Cook eggs to 160°F.
- Disinfect surfaces that touch raw meat or eggs.

Quick Facts

Leading cause of foodborne-related hospitalizations and deaths in the U.S.

Birds, including chicks, can spread *Salmonella* **without looking sick.**

Children, pregnant women, older adults, and those with weak immune systems are **most at risk**.

Salmonella can **easily spread** from the coop to your kitchen on your hands, shoes, or clothing.

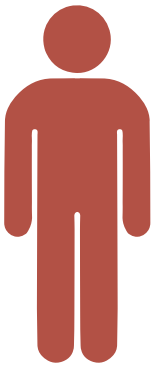
Salmonella can **survive on contaminated surfaces** for up to four days.

Signs of Illness in Humans

Symptoms usually start 8 to 72 hours after exposure. Illness often lasts 4 to 7 days.

Common Symptoms

- Fever
- Headache
- Nausea
- Vomiting
- Abdominal pain
- Diarrhea



Contact your doctor if you are concerned about Salmonellosis.

Spread and Impact

1. How it Spreads

- *Salmonella* spreads through droppings that contaminate eggs, coop surfaces, and hands after handling birds.
- People can also get sick by eating undercooked poultry or eggs from infected birds.

2. Source and Risks

- Poultry, chicks, rodents, insects, pets, and people can spread *Salmonella*.
- Chicks are a frequent source of infection, especially for children.

3. Each year in the US: (Source: CDC)

- 1.35 million illnesses
- 26,500 hospitalizations
- 420 deaths
- Many infections are linked to poultry or eggs.

Find out more at
www.healthybirds.info