

***Campylobacter* infection**

Campylobacter infection is a type of gastroenteritis (or 'gastro') caused by *Campylobacter* bacteria. Symptoms usually start a few days after infection, and include stomach cramps, diarrhoea (sometimes with blood in it), fever, nausea and vomiting. It may cause dehydration, which can be very dangerous for young children.

How it spreads

You can get infected with the bacteria from an infected person, or by eating contaminated food, like undercooked chicken. You can also get it from touching infected animals or their faeces (poo).

Exclusion period

Exclude until there has not been any diarrhoea or vomiting for at least 24 hours.

Staff members with these symptoms should not handle food until they have not vomited or had diarrhoea for at least 48 hours (they can be assigned to other duties after at least 24 hours, or stay away from the service).

Some states and territories may have different requirements for diarrhoea or vomiting. Check if your state or territory has different requirements for gastroenteritis.

Actions for educators and other staff

To avoid getting *Campylobacter* infection, wash your hands after going to the toilet or changing a nappy; and before and after handling food.

Regularly rake sandpits and remove any animal faeces. If possible, cover the sandpit when it is not in use.

If you have 2 or more cases of gastroenteritis in your service, contact your local public health unit for advice. This is legally required in most states and territories (except South Australia).

Actions for parents and carers

Keep your child at home until there has been no diarrhoea for at least 24 hours and they feel well.

Give your child plenty of fluids and talk to your pharmacist about rehydration solution options.

See a doctor immediately if your child cannot keep down any fluids. Babies under 6 months should always be seen by a doctor if they have gastro.

Wash hands before and after cooking. Wash hands after using the toilet, changing nappies or cleaning up animal faeces. Teach your child to do the same.

More information about *Campylobacter* infection

See healthdirect for more information on prevention, diagnosis and treatment of *Campylobacter* infection (healthdirect.gov.au/campylobacter-infection).

To find out if a child needs medical help:

- use the online symptom checker (healthdirect.gov.au/symptom-checker)
- speak to a registered nurse by calling the 24-hour health advice hotline on 1800 022 222.