

Communicable Disease – Enteric Illness

Why Is This Important?

Enteric or gastrointestinal illnesses are caused by infectious agents that are shed in feces and can contaminate food or water sources. Transmission occurs primarily through ingestion of contaminated food, beverages or water and, more rarely, through direct or fecal-oral contact with an infected person.

Ingestion of contaminated water or food, in particular raw or undercooked poultry or meat, or unpasteurized milk, is the most common source of transmission for enteric illness. Direct contact with infected animals and pets are also significant risks. Fruits and vegetables may be contaminated through contact with infected water or animal products. Surface water can easily become contaminated by feces of infected animals and humans. Routine water treatment does not kill some organisms and filtration is necessary.

Careful food preparation is required to prevent enteric illness.

What Is Being Done?

[2015 Disease Control Activities](#)

To Learn More:

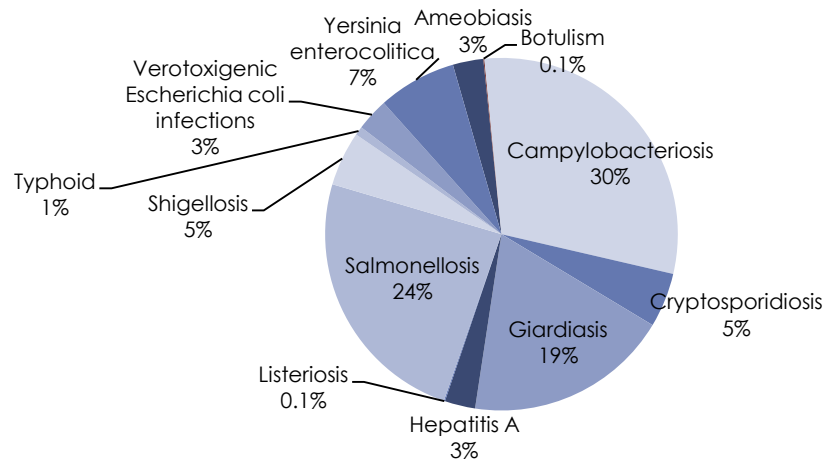
Chief Medical Health Officer's [Call to Action](#)

Highlights

Campylobacteriosis, salmonellosis and giardiasis account for three of every four cases of enteric illness in the Region.

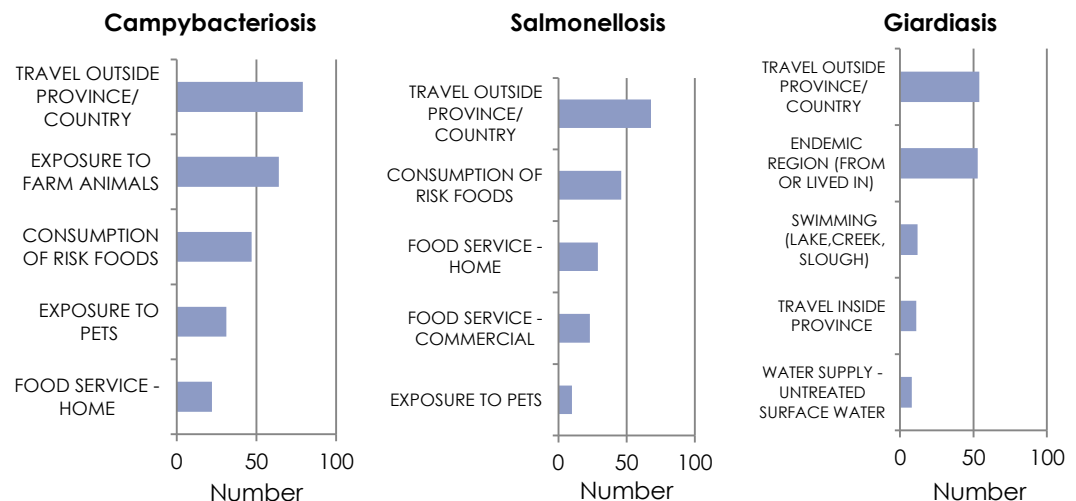
- In the past five years, 1001 cases of reportable enteric illness were reported in our Region (not shown). This number is likely under-reported. See [About the Data](#).
- Travel outside the province or country is the top risk for all three top reportable enteric illnesses (Figure 2).
- Exposure to animals is a common risk for transmission for campylobacter and salmonella infections (Figure 2).
- Consumption of risk foods, such as undercooked poultry or eggs, is a common risk for salmonella and campylobacter infections. Food service refers to home and commercial food preparation of risk foods.
- Natural, untreated water supplies, both within and outside Saskatchewan are common risks for giardiasis, sometimes called "beaver fever."
- For the five year trend of enteric illness see [Reportable Disease Appendix](#).

Figure 1: Reportable Enteric Illness, Saskatoon Health Region, 2011 to 2015



Source: iPHIS

Figure 2: Top Reported Risks for Selected Enterics, Saskatoon Health Region, 2006 to 2015



Source: iPHIS