

Typhoid Fever (*Salmonella typhi*)

1997 CDC Case Definition

Clinical description

An illness caused by *Salmonella typhi* that is often characterized by insidious onset of sustained fever, headache, malaise, anorexia, relative bradycardia, constipation or diarrhea, and nonproductive cough. However, many mild and atypical infections occur. Carriage of *S. typhi* may be prolonged.

Laboratory criteria for diagnosis

- Isolation of *S. typhi* from blood, stool, or other clinical specimen

Case classification

Probable: a clinically compatible case that is epidemiologically linked to a confirmed case in an outbreak

Confirmed: a clinically compatible case that is laboratory confirmed

Comment

Isolation of the organism is required for confirmation. Serologic evidence alone is not sufficient for diagnosis. Asymptomatic carriage should not be reported as typhoid fever. Isolates of *S. typhi* are reported to the Foodborne and Diarrheal Diseases Branch, Division of Bacterial and Mycotic Diseases, National Center for Infectious Diseases, CDC, through the Public Health Laboratory Information System.