

CAMPYLOBACTOR ENTERITIS
(Reportable Disease - Report to Local Health Agency)

IMMUNIZATION: None

INCUBATION PERIOD: Usually 1 to 7 days, but can range from 1-10 days depending on dose ingested.

SYMPTOMS: Diarrhea, frequently bloody; abdominal pain; malaise; fever; nausea and vomiting. Illness usually lasts no more than 10 days, generally 2-5 days.

PERIOD OF COMMUNICABILITY:
Throughout the course of infection. Individuals not treated with antibiotics can excrete organisms for as long as 7 weeks.
Communicability is greatest during acute phase of illness.

MODE OF TRANSMISSION:
By ingestion of organisms in undercooked chicken and pork; contaminated food and water or raw milk from fecal-carrier animals. From contact with infected pets (especially puppies and kittens), farm animals or infected infants. Person-to-person transmission can occur, especially in infants.

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE:
Symptomatic childcare employees should NOT be permitted to work until diarrhea has ceased. Exclusion of asymptomatic convalescent stool-positive individuals is indicated only for those with questionable handwashing habits. Children with diarrhea should be excluded till diarrhea ceases or be cared for in a separate protected area until diarrhea subsides. In settings where children are not toilet-trained, it is prudent to treat with antibiotics. Symptomatic children should be excluded until 2 days following initiation of antibiotics or until the child is without diarrhea.

CONTACT/FOLLOW-UP: As above.