

Salmonellosis Cases in Clark County

General Salmonellosis Information

Background

Salmonellosis comes from an infection with the bacterium *Salmonella*. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates ~1.2 million illnesses and 450 deaths occur due to this infection annually in the United States. *Salmonella* lives in the intestinal tract of humans and animals. Animals can carry the bacterium, but will appear healthy and clean. Salmonellosis is more common in the summer months than the winter months.

Transmission & Risk

Salmonella is usually transmitted to humans by eating foods contaminated with animal feces. Any food may become contaminated, including vegetables, fruit, and processed foods. When preparing food in the kitchen, it is important to properly wash the cutting board and knife as well as wash hands between preparation steps to minimize cross contamination.

Children under 5 years of age are at a higher risk of infection than other age groups. Young children, older, adults, and people with weakened immune systems are the most likely to have severe infections.

Symptoms & Complications

Diarrhea, fever, and abdominal cramps develop after 12-72 hours after infection, and the illness will typically pass in 4-7 days. Many people are able to recover without treatment; however, there are some instances in which the diarrhea may be severe enough to warrant hospitalization.

Those with diarrhea from *Salmonella* typically recover completely. A small portion of cases will develop pain in their joints (Reiter's syndrome or reactive arthritis). This can last for months or years and potentially lead to chronic arthritis which is difficult to treat. Receiving treatment does not make a difference in whether a person develops arthritis or not.

Testing, Diagnosis, Treatment

Testing stool or blood from an infected person is necessary to diagnose salmonellosis and differentiate it from other illnesses that cause diarrhea, fever, and cramps. Further testing can be completed to characterize the type of *Salmonella*.

Gastrointestinal infections resolve in 5-7 days and do not require further treatment. Those with severe diarrhea may need rehydration and may be recommended antibiotic therapy. Antibiotic resistance is increasing among some *Salmonella* bacteria and testing can guide the appropriate therapy.

This is no vaccine to prevent salmonellosis, but there are effective ways to prevent becoming infected with this bacterium. Avoid consuming raw or undercooked animal products, wash cutting boards and

utensils between produce and uncooked meat, wash hands when they come in contact with raw meat, animal feces, or reptiles.

More information can be found here: <https://odh.ohio.gov/know-our-programs/infectious-disease-control-manual/section3/section-3-salmonellosis>

Clark County Related Discussion

The highest reported cases was in 2017 (23 cases) and the lowest was in 2018 (10). There’s a 56.5% decrease in cases between 2017 and 2018. Overall, there is a 47.8% decrease in cases between 2017 and 2021. For Salmonella, only probable and confirmed cases are reported.

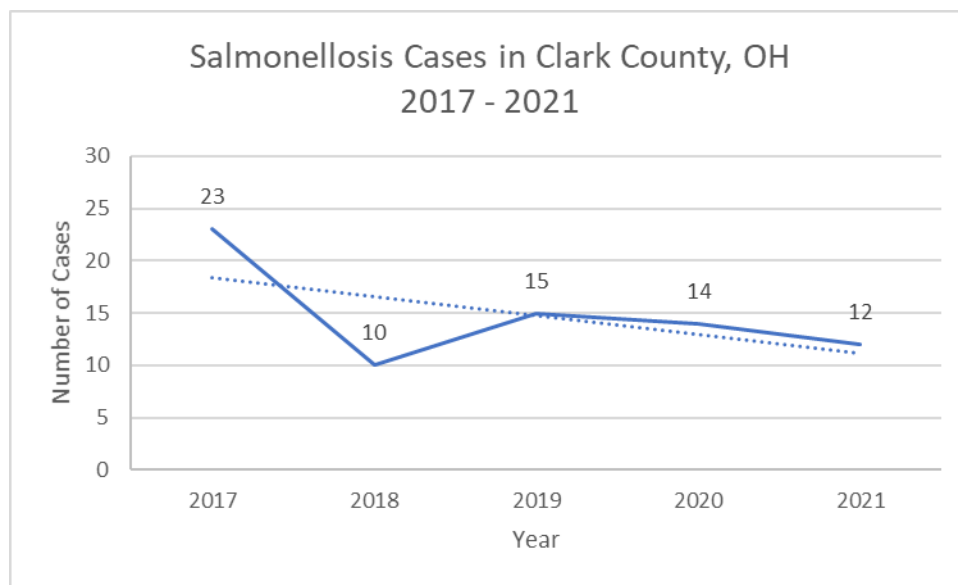


Figure 1 Salmonellosis 2017-2021

While *Salmonella* may be more common in the summer compared to the winter, we don’t see any trends within Clark County within each quarter.

	Q1 Grand Total	Q2 Grand Total	Q3 Grand Total	Q4 Grand Total
2017	8	6	7	2
2018	2	1	4	3
2019	2	5	2	6
2020	1	4	6	3
2021	2	4	2	4

Table 1 Salmonella case distribution by quarter