

September 6, 2019

To the Wesleyan Community,

I received a notification that one of our students was admitted to Middlesex Hospital with a Salmonella Typhi infection.

This infection is usually contracted by ingestion of contaminated food or water during foreign travel. It can be spread by fecal oral contact. If one touches a surface that had been touched by a person with the salmonella whose hand was contaminated by fecal matter, spread can occur this way. It is not an airborne infection. I suspect that the risk of anyone contracting this would be extremely low or nil.

With that being said, if anyone has symptoms of typhoid, I would advise contacting a health care provider. Students should call the Davison Health Center (860-685-2470) and staff/faculty should contact their primary health care providers.

The symptoms to watch for would be high and prolonged fever (101-102 degrees and higher). Along with the fever one may have headaches, muscle aches, extreme fatigue,, severe loss of appetite. One may have either diarrhea or constipation early in the course. This can be confusing as all these symptoms can be present with most viral illnesses.

The incubation time from exposure to symptoms is usually 6-72 hours.

I want to stress that handwashing with soap and water or a hand sanitizer is one of the best methods to decrease the spread of any infectious disease.

Tom McLarney MD  
Medical Director  
Davison Health Center  
Wesleyan University  
327 High St.  
Middletown, CT 06459  
860-685-2470  
860-685-2471 fax  
[www.wesleyan.edu/healthservices](http://www.wesleyan.edu/healthservices)