

Campylobacteriosis

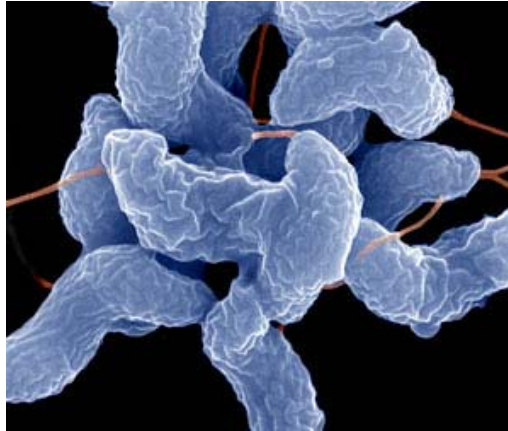


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CAUSE: This intestinal disease is caused by a spiral-shaped bacterium of the genus *Campylobacter*.

EFFECT: These bacteria live in the intestines of clinically normal animals but are the leading cause of bacterial enteritis (diarrhea) in people.

How is Campylobacteriosis spread? Like *E. coli*, some cattle carry *Campylobacter* even though they don't show any signs of illness. Improper hygiene during meat preparation or consumption of improperly cooked meat can lead to human infection and disease. Food-borne outbreaks have also been linked to unpasteurized milk.

How can Campylobacteriosis be prevented? Proper food preparation and hand-washing before eating will prevent most food-borne illnesses including Campylobacteriosis.

Can Campylobacteriosis affect people? Yes, this is among the leading causes of bacterial diarrheal disease in the world. This bacteria can cause diarrhea, fever, and cramping. Symptomatic treatment generally leads to recovery. Complications are rare.

What if there is an outbreak? Cows are rarely clinically ill even if they carry *Campylobacter*. This bacteria is more important in terms of public health.

For more information on Campylobacteriosis, see:

[World Health Organization: Campylobacteriosis](#)

[CDC: Campylobacter](#)

[FDA: Bad Bug Book – Campylobacter jejuni](#)

[The Merck Veterinary Manual: Campylobacteriosis](#)