

Traveller Information Sheets



Typhoid

What is Typhoid Fever?

Typhoid Fever is caused by a particular salmonella bacterium that can be found in food and water which has been contaminated with faeces of infected people. Carriers of typhoid can also transmit typhoid by handing food. In areas where sanitation is poor there is a high risk of typhoid transmission, this is mainly in developing countries. Typhoid is a notifiable condition, this means that if you are diagnosed with typhoid, you will be

What are the symptoms of Typhoid?

- Feeling weak.
- Stomach pains.
- Headache.
- Loss of appetite.
- Rash. Flat, rose coloured spots.

Can I be vaccinated against Typhoid?

Yes, there are a few different options.

In Australia there are two monovalent vaccinations; Typhim Vi and Typherix, a combination vaccination; Vivaxim, as well as oral tablets; Vivotiff oral.

Both monovalent typhoid vaccines (Typherix and Typhim Vi) are registered for use in persons ≥ 2 years of age. The dose of both vaccines is 0.5 mL (for both adults and children), to be given by IM injection. Booster doses are advised after 3 years if risk of exposure is present.

The dose of the combination typhoid Vi polysaccharide/hepatitis A vaccine (Vivaxim) is 1 mL to be given by IM injection. Vivaxim is registered for use in persons aged ≥ 16 years. Booster doses of Vivaxim are advised after 3 years if risk of exposure to typhoid is present and booster dose of Hepatitis A has not been given in the preceding 3 years, otherwise, administration of monovalent typhoid vaccination or oral typhoid vaccination is indicated.

Vivotiff oral is a live vaccine (which may be contraindicated in some people) and is registered for use in persons ≥ 6 years of age; it is presented in a pack of 3 capsules. Each dose (a whole capsule) is the same for both adults and children. The vaccination schedule consists of one capsule of vaccine on days 1, 3 and 5, taken one hour before food. Vivotiff oral can be given at the same time as other vaccines – including live vaccines such as yellow fever.

Reference

Centres for disease control and prevention, 2013, Atlanta GA, viewed 13th April 2014, <http://www.cdc.gov/nczved/divisions/dfbmd/diseases/typhoid_fever/#top>

World Health Organisation, 2014, Geneva Switzerland, viewed 13th April 2014, <http://www.who.int/topics/typhoid_fever/en/>

Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation 2013, *The Australian Immunisation Handbook. 10th ed.* Canberra: Australian Government Department of Health, viewed 13th April 2014, <<http://www.immunise.health.gov.au/internet/immunise/publishing.nsf/Content/handbook10-4-21>>