Typhoid Fever, Biological Weapon

Typhoid fever is a life-threatening illness caused by the *bacterium* (germ) Salmonella Typhi.

HOW DOES IT AFFECT YOU?

- A sustained fever as high as 103° to 104° F (39° to 40° C) may be present.
- There may be weakness, stomach pains, loss of appetite and headaches.
- There may be a flat, rose-colored spotty rash.

DIAGNOSIS

The only way to know for sure if an illness is typhoid fever is by having samples of stool or blood tested for the presence of S. Typhi.

WHAT SHOULD BE DONE

Typhoid fever can be prevented and can usually be treated with antibiotics. If you are planning to travel outside the United States, you should know about typhoid fever and what steps you can take to protect yourself.
If an outbreak of Typhoid Fever has occurred as a result of a bioterrorism attack, some of the laboratory work may not be available to diagnose the illness. If antibiotics are available, it may be advisable to take them prophylactically if there has been a nearby outbreak. Follow the CDC's recommendations.

Information courtesy of the CDC.

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