

Table A. Causes of Acute Foodborne Gastroenteritis – Quick Reference

CAUSE	Average Incubation	Range Incubation	Fever	Vomiting	Diarrhea
Heavy Metals	5 – 15 minutes	1 – 60 minutes	--	+++	++
Staph enterotoxin	2 – 4 hours	30 minutes – 7 hours	--	++++	+++
Bacillus cereus	2 – 4 hours	1 – 6 hours	--	+++	+
Clostridium perfringens	11 hours	6 – 24 hours	--	--	++++
E. coli invasive	11 hours	8 – 24 hours	++	--	+++
Vibrio parahaemolyticus	12 hours	2 – 48 hours	+	+	+++
Bacillus cereus	12 hours	8 – 24 hours	--	+	+++
Salmonella	24 hours	6 – 72 hours	++	+	+++
E. coli enterotoxigenic	26 hours	8 – 48 hours	--	--	+++
Shigella	36 hours	1 – 7 days	+++	+	+++
Norwalk virus	36 hours	10 – 50 hours	--	+++	+++
Vibrio cholera	36 hours	1 – 5 days	--	--	++++
E. coli O157:H7	72 hours	48 – 96 hours	++	--	+++
Campylobacter jejuni	4 days	2 – 10 days	++	--	+++
Yersinia enterocolitica	4 days	3 – 7 days	++	+	++

Source: J.P. Lofgren, M.D., ADPH