



Symptoms and signs of food-induced ill-health:

An “upset tummy” is a familiar symptom for someone who thinks they might have food poisoning; this is known as a non-visible symptom. There are many other signs and symptoms that could show that a person might be suffering from ill-health due to the food they have eaten. Some of the symptoms can be seen (visible symptoms) such as a rash. It is important to be able to recognise visible and non-visible symptoms to help someone suffering from food-induced ill-health.

Visible symptoms

Visible symptoms of food poisoning, chemical poisoning, allergic reaction and food intolerance include:

- **Diarrhoea:** a common symptom of most types of food poisoning bacteria and can also be a symptom of lactose intolerance.
- **Vomiting:** a common symptom of most types of food poisoning bacteria, but may could also be caused by taking in chemicals accidentally added to food.
- **Pale or sweating/chills:** a high temperature is a common symptom of E-coli and Salmonella.
- **Bloating:** a symptom of lactose intolerance.
- **Weight loss:** a symptom of gluten intolerance (coeliac disease).

Allergic/anaphylactic reaction

- **Visible symptoms:** red skin, a raised rash, vomiting, swelling of lips and eyes and difficulty breathing.
- **Non-visible symptoms:** swelling of tongue and throat, nausea (feeling sick) and abdominal pain.
- **Anaphylaxis:** a severe reaction to eating an allergen that can lead to death. An injection of adrenaline (for example, an EpiPen) is the treatment for an anaphylactic reaction.

Non-visible symptoms

Non-visible symptoms of food poisoning, chemical poisoning, allergic reaction and food intolerance include:

- **Nausea (feeling sick):** the most common symptom for all types of food-induced ill-health.
- **Stomach-ache/cramps:** abdominal pain is common symptom of lactose intolerance as well as a sign of an allergic reaction. Cramps may happen at the same time as diarrhoea.
- **Wind/flatulence:** a common symptom of lactose intolerance.
- **Constipation:** a symptom of Listeria food poisoning.
- **Painful joints:** a symptom of E-coli food poisoning.
- **Headache:** a symptom linked to Campylobacter, E-coli and Listeria.
- **Weakness:** non-stop vomiting, and diarrhoea can leave a person feeling weak. Gluten intolerance (coeliac disease) can leave a person feeling tired because their bodies can't absorb the correct amount of nutrients.