

Diarrhea and Vomiting



Diarrhea is the passage of three or more loose or watery stools within 24 hours in adults and children, and an increase in stool frequency to twice the usual number per day in infants. Infections, illnesses, and medications can cause diarrhea.

Gastroenteritis, a highly contagious and very common infection, is an inflammation of the stomach and intestines. Most at risk are young children, older adults, and persons with weakened immune systems.

Causes

Gastroenteritis is caused by viruses, bacteria or parasites. It is spread through direct and indirect contact, or eating foods handled by an infected person.