



Vibrio Infections

Information for Health Care Providers

Over the past few years, between 25 and 45 cases of *Vibrio* infections have been reported annually in Maryland; others often go unrecognized and unreported.

TYPES

- *Vibrio vulnificus*
 - *Vibrio parahaemolyticus*
- Other forms can also cause illness.

CAUSES

- eating *Vibrio*-contaminated shellfish
 - direct skin exposure to salt or brackish water containing the bacteria
- Includes the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries during the warmer months.

SIGNS/SYMPTOMS

- skin and soft tissue infections
- gastrointestinal illness
- sepsis

IDENTIFICATION culture

TREATMENT see link below

People with chronic liver disease, chronic kidney disease, diabetes, or those with weakened immune systems are at a higher risk of *Vibrio*-related illness. Such patients should be informed about the risks associated with eating raw shellfish and coming in contact with salt or brackish water.

Report all suspected or confirmed *Vibrio* infections to your local health department.

For more information, check out
Maryland Healthy Beaches: Facts about Vibrio Bacteria at
marylandhealthybeaches.com/vibrio.html

