**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 species can also cause illness.

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

**CLINICAL PRESENTATIONS**
- skin and soft tissue infections
- gastrointestinal illness
- sepsis

**IDENTIFICATION** culture

**TREATMENT** see cdc.gov

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