

# 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](http://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](http://marylandhealthybeaches.com/vibrio.html)