

# *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*  
[mde.maryland.gov/programs/water/MHB/Pages/Vibrio.aspx](http://mde.maryland.gov/programs/water/MHB/Pages/Vibrio.aspx)