

# Vibriosis (non-Cholera causing species)

## What is vibriosis?

- Vibriosis is an illness caused by *Vibrio* bacteria, which is found naturally in salt or brackish waters, like bays or gulf waters.
- Though there are several types of bacteria that cause human illness, *V. parahaemolyticus*, *V. vulnificus*, and *V. alginolyticus* are the most commonly reported species in the U.S.
- Peak months for increased *Vibrio* bacteria in waters are between May and October.

## How is vibriosis acquired?

- People usually get vibriosis by consuming raw or undercooked shellfish, such as oysters, or by having an open wound come into contact with contaminated waters
- Vibriosis is not spread directly from person to person

## What are the signs and symptoms of vibriosis?

- Signs and symptoms may vary, depending on the type of infection. They can appear hours or days after exposure to the bacteria (24 hours to 3 days).
- Common gastric signs and symptoms include watery diarrhea, vomiting, abdominal pain, and nausea.
- Wound infections may involve chills, fever, skin lesions, and hypotension. These may progress to a severe infection of the skin and deep underlying tissues or a blood infection.
- Symptoms may last for several days, depending on the severity and the site affected.
- Those who are immunocompromised may be at increased risk of severe disease.

## How do I prevent myself from getting vibriosis?

- Avoid eating raw or undercooked shellfish, cooking foods to recommended temperatures.
- Avoiding exposure of open wounds (including cuts and scrapes) to salt and brackish waters. If a person gets a cut while in the water, immediately wash the wound with soap and fresh water. If the wound shows any signs of infection (redness, pain, and/or swelling) or if the cut is deep, seek medical attention immediately.

## How is vibriosis treated?

- Supportive treatment and rehydration help to alleviate symptoms related to mild illness.
- Antimicrobials may be indicated for those with wound infection and/or septicemia to improve outcomes. Aggressive attention should be given to the wound site, and amputation of the infected limb is sometimes necessary.

## Where can I find more information?

- Visit CDC's [general vibriosis page](#) for more details.



Alabama Department of Public Health

Infectious Diseases & Outbreaks Division, 201 Monroe St, Montgomery, AL 36104

800-338-8374 [www.alabamapublichealth.gov/infectiousdiseases](http://www.alabamapublichealth.gov/infectiousdiseases)