

# Vibriosis (Non-Cholera)

## What? How? Where?

**What?** Vibriosis is a gastrointestinal illness caused by bacteria in warm coastal waters. These bacteria are in the same family as the bacteria that cause cholera.

**How?** *Vibrio* can enter your body when broken skin or a wound comes into contact with contaminated water. You can also get it from eating raw or under-cooked contaminated seafood (especially oysters) and from wounds that occur while you're handling raw seafood.

**Where?** These bacteria are most commonly found in coastal and brackish waters during the summer and fall months. People most often get vibriosis through eating raw or undercooked contaminated seafood.

## Prevention

The best way to protect yourself from vibriosis in recreational waters is to:

- Avoid swimming in warm coastal waters (salt and brackish) if you have broken skin or an open wound.

Since vibriosis can also be contracted from raw or uncooked contaminated seafood, remember to take special care when handling and preparing seafood.

**People at increased risk for developing vibriosis include:**

- Those with pre-existing conditions (especially liver disease)
- Individuals with weakened immune systems.

## Symptoms

Symptoms can include: watery diarrhea, abdominal cramping, nausea, vomiting, fever, and chills. You can develop a skin infection if bacteria get into broken skin or an open wound.

Should you experience any of the above symptoms, seek diagnosis and treatment from your healthcare provider.



Information from this fact sheet, as well as additional information is available from:  
CDC: <http://www.cdc.gov/healthywater/swimming/rwi/illnesses/giardia.html> &  
[http://www.cdc.gov/parasites/giardia/gen\\_info/faqs.html](http://www.cdc.gov/parasites/giardia/gen_info/faqs.html)  
WHO: [http://www.who.int/water\\_sanitation\\_health/dwq/en/admicrob5.pdf](http://www.who.int/water_sanitation_health/dwq/en/admicrob5.pdf)  
Heymann, D. 2008. Control of communicable diseases manual. 19th ed. Washington (DC): American Public Health Association.



South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control

[www.scdhec.gov](http://www.scdhec.gov)

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