

Vibrio vulnificus (Vv)

WHAT IS VIBRIO VULNIFICUS (Vv)?

- Infection is rare, yet it can be a serious disease caused by bacteria commonly found in warm, brackish and salt water, and in shellfish during the summer months.

HOW CAN I GET IT?

- Eating raw or undercooked shellfish, especially oysters.
- Exposing open wounds, cuts or scratches of the skin to brackish and salt water.

WHO IS AT RISK?

- People with weakened immune systems, particularly those with chronic liver disease.
- Healthy people may develop a mild infection.

WHAT ARE THE SYMPTOMS?

- Symptoms may include: vomiting, diarrhea, abdominal pain or fever.
- A skin infection may lead to skin breakdown and skin ulcers.
- The bacteria can invade the bloodstream, causing a severe and life-threatening illness with symptoms like fever, chills, decreased blood pressure (septic shock) and blistering skin lesions.

WHAT CAN I DO?

- Keep brackish and salt water away from open wounds.
- Do not eat raw shellfish, and cook shellfish thoroughly before eating.
- Avoid cross-contaminating ready-to-eat foods with raw shellfish and its juices.

If you have a condition that puts you at risk for Vv, talk to your doctor about how to stay healthy.



For more information, please contact the Florida Department of Health in Escambia County at 850-595-6683, or visit www.EscambiaHealth.com