

Vibrio vulnificus (Vv)

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



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, particularly 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.