



## FACT SHEET

### Vibriosis

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#### What is it?

- Vibriosis is caused by a contagious bacteria (germ) named *Vibrio parahaemolyticus*. The germ may be in the coastal waters, or uncooked shellfish or fin fish harvested from coastal waters.

#### What are the symptoms?

- Usually start 12-24 hours after exposure
- Moderate to severe watery diarrhea
- Abdominal cramps
- Sometimes nausea and vomiting, fever, chills and headache.

#### How is it spread?

- Raw shellfish
- Other foods can be "cross-contaminated". For example, a food washed in contaminated sea water and not cooked before eating could be a source.

#### Diagnosis and treatment

- The bacteria can be identified from the stool (bowel movement).
- Treatment usually not needed
- May need fluid replacement therapy
- Antibiotics (tetracycline or doxycycline) usually not necessary, but may be indicated in severe cases.

#### Prevention

- Thoroughly cook shellfish and fin fish before eating.
- Do not rinse cooked shellfish or fin fish with seawater which may be contaminated.
- Keep raw or cooked shellfish or fin fish well refrigerated before serving.

**Report all cases to El Paso Department of Public Health by calling 915-212-6520**